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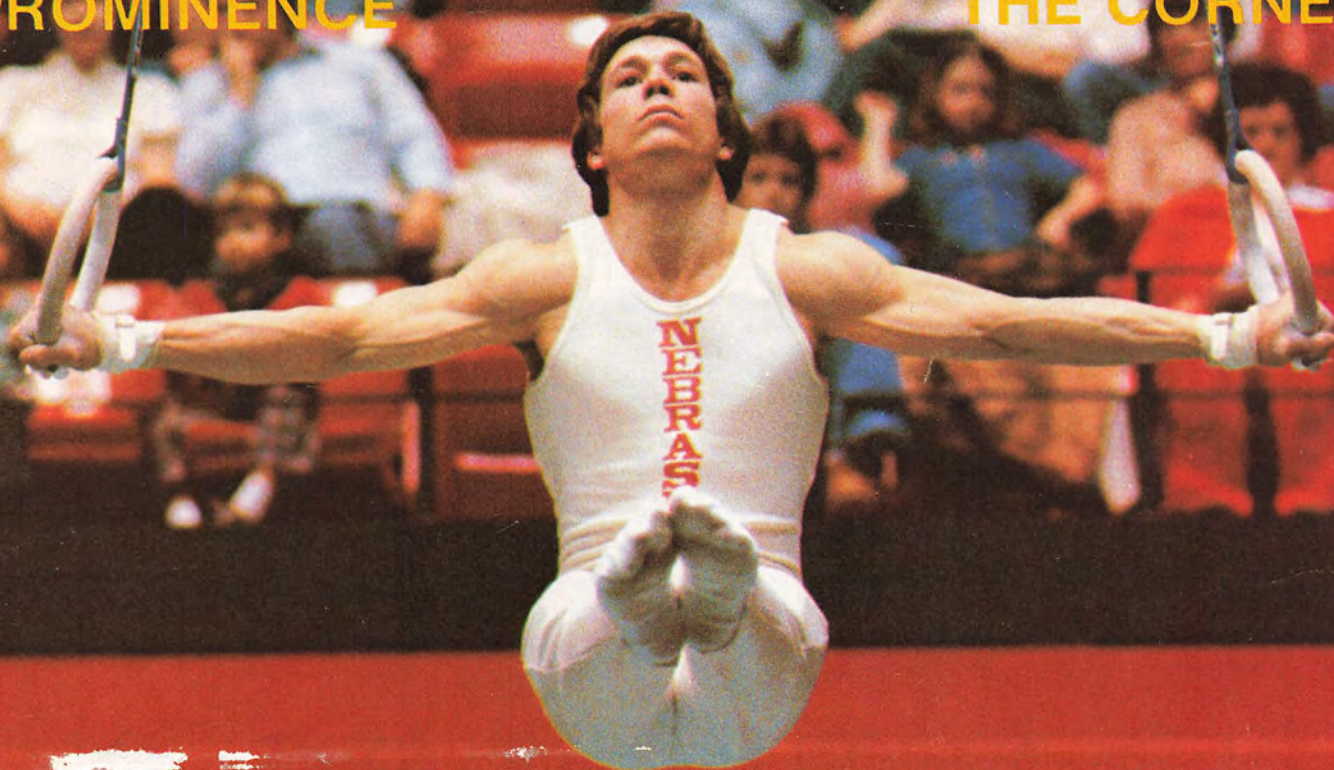
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MARCH 1979

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 3

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Dear Friends:

Football returns to the pages of Nebraska Magazine this issue and it will continue to be a big part of the magazine right into the football season next fall.

This month, Mike Babcock provides you with the latest tabulation of the 1979 Cornhusker grid recruits. Also, a football preview will reveal coach Tom Osborne's plans and objectives for the Big Red this spring.

A pleasant surprise on the Nebraska basketball team this season was the play of sophomore Andre Smith. Smith's childhood on Chicago's southside is revisited with the aid of the skilled Babcock.

These are just a few of the interesting features that are in this month's Nebraska Magazine. We hope that you will enjoy it and pass it on to another Cornhusker fan.

Go Big Red!



Thomas R. LeDuc
Publisher

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NEBRASKA

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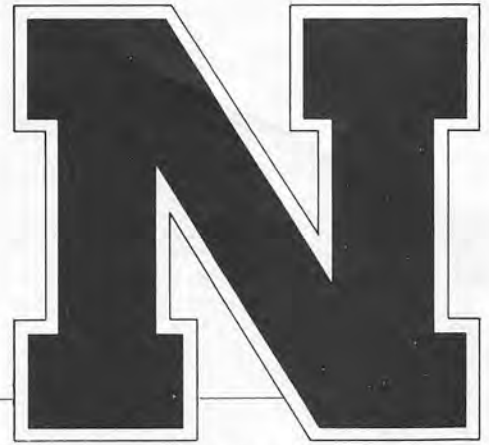
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On the Cover: Larry Gerard performs a difficult L Cross on the still rings during home action in Devaney Sports Center this year. Photo by Ted Kirk

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Spring football is a time for filling holes, checking stats and evaluating new personnel. See who is returning and hear what coach Osborne says about this squad.

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Nebraska fans are getting behind a gymnastics program that has been a long time in building. With many young members on the squad, the program may just be the team to beat for years to come.

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Andre Smith grew up on Chicago's south side amidst a rough and tough neighborhood. Though he still enjoys going back, he prefers the quiet life in Lincoln.

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With a Big Eight title under their belt, the women hope to follow suit with the NU men.

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Bonus Situation.



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GENUINE

SPRING FOOTBALL

PUTTING IN THE TIME FOR THE CAMPAIGN OF '79

by Bill Bennett

During the months of April and May, the primary interests of the nation's sports fans are centered around the recently-completed NCAA basketball tournament or the upcoming major league baseball season.

But first and foremost in the hearts of all Nebraskans, a single sport receives most of their attention — Nebraska spring football.

The Husker's spring tenure starts April 2 and continues through May 4. The Cornhuskers will practice Monday through Wednesday and on Friday with scrim-

mages on Saturday. The annual Red-White intrasquad game is set for May 5 and will draw its usual crowd of about 20,000.

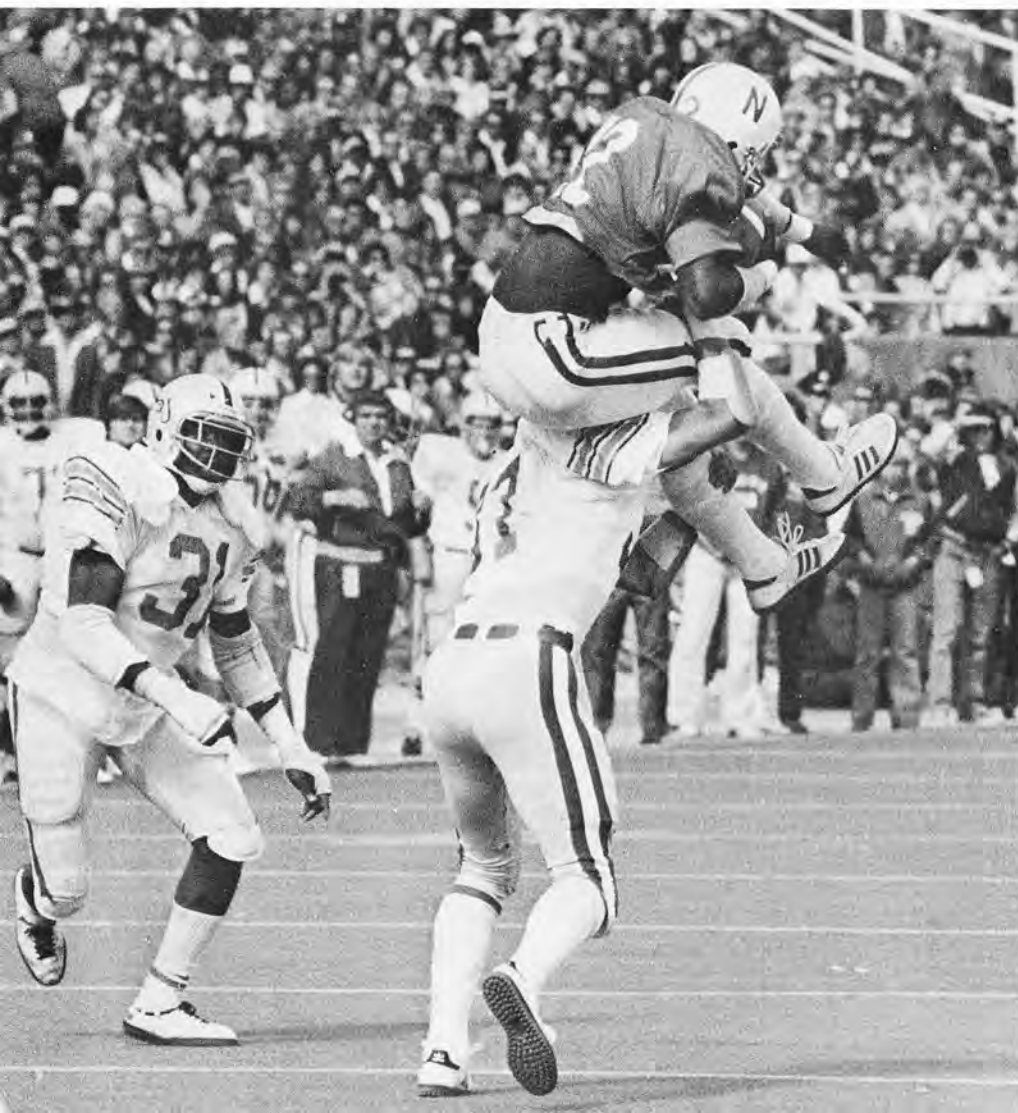
During the spring, Nebraska will find out who returns and what needs to be improved from last year's squad that finished 9-3 overall, tied with Oklahoma for the Big 8 title with a 6-1 mark, and played in the Orange Bowl. Ranked number eight in the country in the final poll tabulations last year, Nebraska has now been rated in college football's National Top 10 for nine consecutive times.

But it's time to forget 1978 and look at the upcoming '79 campaign. The Huskers will return 39 lettermen this season; 20 on offense, 18 on defense and one kicker. Included in those stats are six returning offensive starters, five defensive frontliners and the regular punter.

Missing from this year's camp will be 19 lettermen from 1978. Nine from the offense and nine from the defense and one kicker were lost. Of those lost, six were offensive and six were defensive starters and one was the regular placekicker.

During the spring, Nebraska must find solutions to the gaps left by graduation in the offensive line, quarterback, linebacker and the secondary positions. From the offense, the Huskers lost All-America tackle Kelvin Clark, All-Big 8 guard Steve Lindquist, guard Barney Cotton, tackle Tom Ohrt, quarterback Tom Sorley, All-Big 8 running back Rick Berns and kicker Billy Todd.

(continued on page 8)



(Left) Kenny Brown will return for his final season this fall. Last year he caught 23 passes for 367 yards and two touchdowns. (Right) Leading Husker receiver in 1978 (33 receptions for 609 yards and 6 TD's), Junior Miller will return in 1979 as the best tight end in the country.

Photos by Ted Kirk





On defense, the Huskers will be missing All-America defensive end George Andrews, linebackers Lee Kunz and Bruce Dunning, All-Big 8 monster Jim Pillen, cornerback Tim Fisher and safety Jeff Hansen.

However, all is not so bleak in the Cornhusker camp when you look at who is returning for the upcoming autumn campaign. On offense, Nebraska returns six starters; third team All-America and first team All-Big 8 tight end Junior Miller, senior center Kelly Saalfeld, senior split end and punter Tim Smith, junior fullback Andra Franklin, 1977 second team All-America and first team All-Big 8 senior running back I.M. Hipp, along with All-Big 8 wingback Kenny Brown.

Miller, a senior considered one of the finest athletes on the college football field today, last year led Nebraska in receiving with 33 catches for 609 yards and six touchdowns. Miller will be the top returning tight end in the country in 1979.

Saalfeld, a walk-on with Nebraska in 1975, earned a scholarship and could be the top center in the Big 8 this season. His blocking through the middle helped open up holes for Berns' record-breaking season in 1978.

Versatile Tim Smith is an important cog in the Huskers' arsenal. The starting split end for the last two years, he caught 22 passes for 303 yards and two touchdowns in 1978. Also, Nebraska's punter since 1977, he averaged nearly 40 yards a boot last year.

Andra Franklin is both a powerful runner and blocker in the NU backfield. He emerged during the middle of last season as the Cornhusker's starting fullback and gained 428 yards on 86 carries, for a 5.0 average, and scored three touchdowns.

Probably the most famous walk-on in the country is Isaiah Moses Hipp, known to every college football enthusiast in the country as I.M. Hipp. A 1977 standout, Hipp shared the I-Back position with Berns, and despite the split duty, still had a record-breaking season. In 1978, he gained 1,002 yards on 191 carries, a 5.2 average, and scored seven times. Hipp is the only running back in Nebraska football history to gain over 1,000 yards in two straight seasons. Two years ago as a sophomore,

(Top) Tim Hager was the number two man behind Sorley last season. **(Middle)** Andra Franklin was the third leading rusher for the Huskers last season. **(Left)** I.M. Hipp gained over 1,000 yards for the second-straight year in 1978.

Photos by Ted Kirk



Photo by Ted Kirk

Along with Rod Horn, Kerry Weinmaster will be one of the keys to a tough Nebraska defense in 1979. Weinmaster (51) is shown above in game action against Oklahoma State.

Hipp burst onto the collegiate scene and gained 1,353 yards.

A triple threat for the Huskers last year was Kenny Brown. He was the Huskers' leading kickoff and punt returner (14 for 248 yards, a 17.7 average; 19 for 278 yards, a 14.6 average, respectively), the number two receiver (28 catches for 410 yards, 14.6 average, two touchdowns) and also rushed for 139 yards and one touchdown on 25 carries. A returning first team All-Big 8 performer, Brown has his sights set on an even better season in 1979.

Along with the starters, the below performers will also aid the Husker offensive cause in 1979. On the offensive line this spring, the coaches will take a long look at senior Mark Goodspeed, junior Mike Bruce, along with sophomores Tom Carlstrom and Gary England at the tackle slots. At the guard spots, seniors John Havekost and Dan Steiner along with juniors Randy Schleusener and Joe Adams will vie for the starting berths.

At quarterback, Nebraska will have on hand senior Tim Hager, junior Jeff Quinn and sophomores Steve Michaelson, Mark Mauer and Bruce Mathison. Since Hager was the number two signal caller behind Sorley last season, it appears he has the inside track on the job. But, Osborne has said that the competition for quarterback

this spring will be wide open.

Adding depth to the running backs this season will be senior Tim Wurth (a starter against Iowa State last year), junior full-back Jim Kotera, and sophomore I-Back Craig Johnson. Johnson appears to be a carbon-copy of Berns in running style. Last year against Kansas, he gained 192 yards on 10 carries and scored twice, while also turning a screen pass into a 78-yard score.

Assisting Kenny Brown at wingback will be senior Tim McCrady and sophomores Maurice McCloney, Anthony Branch and Anthony Steels.

With the departure of Billy Todd at kicker, his replacement could be senior Dean Sukup, who played behind Todd in 1978. Sukup can kick the long one — on the frosh team in 1975, he booted two successful 52-yarders. Also in the running is junior Tim Bergkamp.

Defensively, the Huskers return five starters: senior left end Lawrence Cole, All-Big 8 senior tackle Rod Horn, senior second team All-Big 8 middle guard Kerry Weinmaster, senior tackle Dan Pensick and junior cornerback Andy Means.

Cole shared the starting left end spot in 1978 with junior Derrie Nelson. With both of them returning, the left end position appears solid in 1979.

Anchoring the line will be senior Rod Horn, who had 64 tackles in 1978. Extremely strong, Horn can bench press 390 pounds.

Weinmaster, though somewhat small for the middle guard at 6-0 and 207 pounds, more than makes up for his size with speed and quickness. He led Nebraska last year in sacks — 16 for a total of 85 yards lost. He will be entering his third year at the Huskers' starting middle guard and his experience will prove valuable for the middle of the Blackshirts.

Dan Pensick broke into the starting lineup late last season. Paired with senior Bill Barnett, together they should make a formidable tackle combination on the Huskers' right side.

Andy Means, a walk-on from Holdrege in 1976, who redshirted in 1977, will be the leader of the Nebraska secondary this season. While starting at the right cornerback position, he earned a scholarship last season.

Depth will also be an important aspect of the Husker defense this season. On the line, NU returns almost two-deep at every position. Helping the tackle spot will be junior David Clark (younger brother of Kelvin), and junior Brian Hedrick. At the

(continued)

middle guard the Huskers can depend on senior two-year letterman Oudious Lee and redshirt sophomore Curt Hinline. Left end, junior Dan Lindstrom, could move into Andrews' vacant post.

The new starters at linebacker could be senior Tom Vering and junior Brent Williams. In the secondary, junior Russell Gary started the first half of last season. The remaining secondary starters could come from senior lettermen Dave Liegl, Paul Letcher and Mark LeRoy along with sophomores Sammy Sims and Rodney Lewis.

Spring practice also gives the coaches a chance to look at the stars from last year's frosh team, which had a perfect 5-0 season. Players like I-Backs Walter Wallace and Derrick Mackie, split end Anthony Bush, quarterback Mathison, middle guard Felix White and linebacker Scott Ploppe will all receive a thorough examination by the NU staff.

Also look for defensive end Jamie Williams, linebackers Steve McWhirter and Steve Damkorgor and defensive back Phil Trent. All were redshirted as freshmen last fall and they could possibly make the Huskers' top two units this season.

According to NU coach Tom Osborne, evaluation is the key to spring football. A lot of the 1979 season will depend on how well the Huskers grade this spring.



Dan Pensick (93), takes control of the situation from his defensive tackle position in game action against California last year in Lincoln. He will be one of the veterans on the Husker defense this year. Photo by Ted Kirk



OFFENSE —

"We certainly think we will have the skilled people to put some points on the board. Our staff feels that Junior Miller (tight end), Tim Smith (split end), Andra Franklin (fullback), I.M. Hipp (I-Back) and Kenny Brown (wingback) are some of the more productive offensive players in the country. Our inexperienced points are at quarterback and offensive line. Tim Hager is the returning quarterback with the most experience, but Jeff Quinn, Steve Michaelson, Mark Mauer and Bruce Mathison will all get an equal chance. On the line, senior Kelly Saalfeld will have to be the leader until we can get things straightened out in front. We must replace four fine players in the offensive line: Kelvin Clark, Barney Cotton, Steve Linquist and Tom Orht. This will be one of the top priorities of the spring."

DEFENSE —

"Defensively, our line will be the strong point. It will have to hold things together until we get the rest of the defensive unit into place. Rod Horn, Kerry Weinmaster, Dan Pensick, Lawrence Cole and Derrie Nelson are five top-notch collegiate linemen. The depth that we have there will

be very invaluable to us this season.

"We must find replacements for Lee Kunz and Bruce Dunning at linebacker, and for cornerback Tim Fischer, monster Jim Pillen and safety Jeff Hansen — all departed through graduation. We have the talent there to fill those holes but it will be talent that must prove itself in a tight game situation. Andy Means and Russell Gary will have to hold things together back there while we experiment with different people."

KICKING —

"Billy Todd was very valuable to us for two years and it is very important that we find a replacement for him. Right now senior Dean Dukup is number one. He can kick the long one, he just needs more consistency."

OVERALL —

"Spring ball is a chance for our staff to look over the entire situation and see what needs to be altered or improved. Offensive line, quarterback, linebacker, secondary and kicking will be our main areas of concentration. I do think we have the talent to fill those gaps and during the spring is the time to find it." ★

Tom Osborne at the Orange Bowl.

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

"OPTIMISM IN ALL CAMPS"

by Ryly Jane Hambleton

Baseball

Coach John Sanders has nothing but high hopes for this year's baseball team. Despite a tough non-conference slate and the always-competitive Big Eight race, Sanders has a lot of reasons for his hopes.

The Huskers return 12 lettermen, including six starters and five front-line pitchers. In addition, Sanders recruited three high school and three junior college stars to add to the returning players from last year's 36-20 team. That was the best mark in the school's history.

Pacing the Husker lettermen are returning starters junior first baseman Pete O'Brien, senior second baseman John Russo, junior centerfielder Joe Scherger, senior designated hitter Bob Gebler, junior right fielder Steve Oakley and senior catcher Val Primante.

O'Brien is the team's top returning hitter, batting .333 in 1978. Russo and Scherger were the Huskers' run producers, getting 55 and 52, respectively. Scherger is already NU's career RBI record holder with 93 after just two years. Gebler and Oakley broke the team season record for triples with seven apiece. Primante, who doubled at third and catcher last year, will be behind the plate solely this year.

Rounding out the starting nine will be sophomore third baseman Jeff Hunter, junior shortstop Kelly Combs and sophomore left fielder Stan Haas. Haas played third and catcher last year in a reserve role and batted .462.

The Husker pitchers include sophomore righthander Tim Burke (4-1), junior left-hander Cliff Faust (4-3), senior righthander Jeff Costello (6-4), ace reliever, junior Gary Nolting (6-4, seven saves, 30 appearances, honorable mention All-Big Eight) and senior righthander Tim Pettit (6-5), who pitched a 10-0 no-hitter against Dana last year.

(continued)

Batting .333 in the 1978 season, Pete O'Brien returns this year as the Cornhuskers' leading hitter.





Left fielder Joe Scherger has NU's career RBI record after just two seasons with the Huskers. Coach Sanders expects big things from Joe this year.



Pitcher and outfielder Connie Gonyea is a 30-year old mother of four who finds the time to play for the Huskers.

Top recruits the Huskers boast this year include junior college transfers righthander Jim McManus, infielder Greg Schafer and outfielder Darnell Clarke. High school prospects include outfielder Harold Bright and righthanded pitchers Mike Harlander and Mike Wojtesak. Ray Tromba transferred to Lincoln in 1978 from UCLA, where he was a teammate of Combs.

"In our division of the Big Eight (Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa State and Kansas), any of the four clubs have a chance," Sanders said. "It should be very balanced. Missouri had a good recruiting year as did Iowa State, while Kansas and Nebraska have a lot of good people back."

The baseball team will open the schedule at home, with doubleheaders scheduled against Missouri Western, Buena Vista and South Dakota. After that, Sanders and his crew will head for California and Hawaii for two weeks of top level competition.

Golf

Nebraska is primed for a return trip to the NCAA Golf Championships in 1979, according to Cornhusker coach Larry Romjue. Nebraska placed second in the Big 8 conference and 21st in the NCAA tournament in 1978 and Romjue said the Huskers are set on improving those marks.

"Oklahoma State will be the conference favorite again this year, but we're looking for a repeat of a second place and a return trip to the NCAA tournament," Romjue said. "In earlier tournaments last fall, we beat the other leading Big 8 teams—Oklahoma and Colorado—so we should have a shot to repeat as second in the conference and maybe even press Oklahoma State a little closer than in the past."

"Last year's experience should be a real asset in our attempt to improve on last year's standings. Steve Statton and Rick Reynolds played well in the fall tournaments and the others are also showing good signs. I expect this to be a fine season for the team."

Returning letterman Statton, Reynolds, and Knox Jones form the nucleus of a fine team according to Romjue. Additional depth will come from the ranks of lettermen Jim Julian and Vic Carder, transfers Bill Henderson and Jeff Klein along with red-shirt Randy Sock.

Softball

The NU women's softball team, which had a record-setting 25-14 season last year, has set some lofty goals for the coming season.

Second-year coach Don Isherwood said

the team is determined to improve its standing in the Big Eight (eliminated in two games last year), win the state title and participate in the Region 6 tournament with hopes of a College World Series berth.

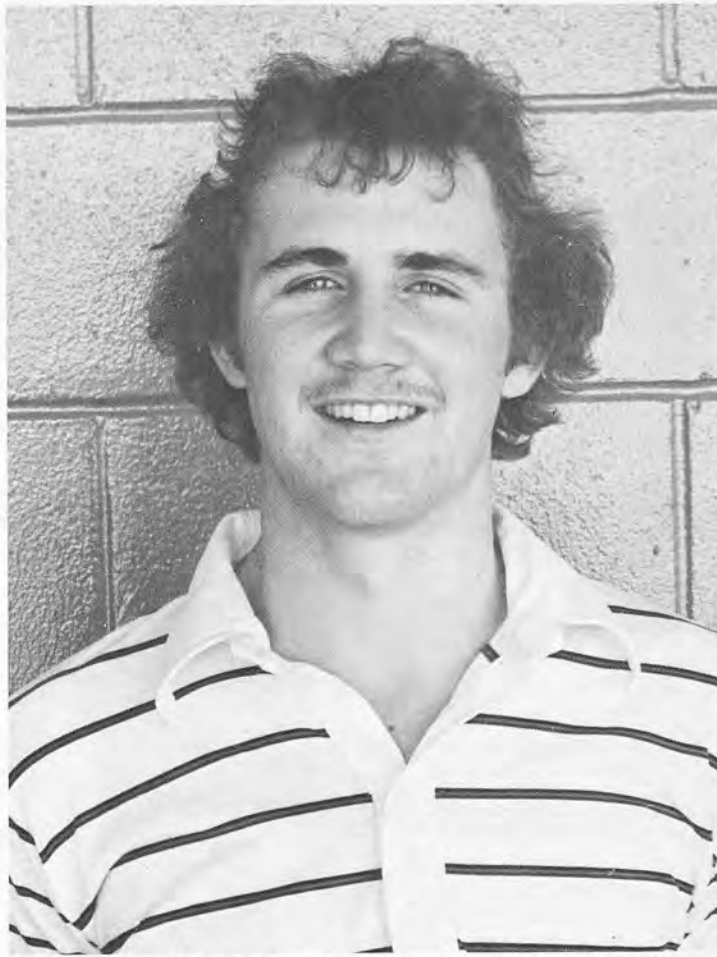
"We return starters at every position but two," said Isherwood. "We lost just three to graduation and have filled in the positions with some outstanding people."

Returning starters include Julie Uryasz at first base and in the outfield, Linda McCrea at short and pitcher, Shelley Scott at third, Laura Lowe behind the plate, Kris Hermanson and Kathy Foley in the outfield and pitcher Connie Gonyea. Other returning players include Kerry Fischer and Julie Geis. Cheryl Morrow and Deb Matejka will join the Huskers this year after a red-shirt year.

Newcomers to the program include three freshmen and three transfers. Candy Hoffman and JoAnn Johnson are both from Lincoln while Alison Bodley is from Poughkeepsie, NY. Hoffman will double as pitcher and second baseman while Johnson will help in the outfield. Bodley will join the pitching staff, as will junior college transfer Belinda Keyes of Phoenix, AZ. Other transfers include Angie Prather from South Dakota (infield) and Robin Wallich from



Number two tennis player Judy Huerter hopes to strengthen the upper half of the Husker women's team.



Knox Jones is one of the top three golfers for the Huskers. The team hopes to improve on last year's 21st place finish in the NCAA Championships this year.

Penn State (first base).

"This is the most demanding schedule any NU softball team has attempted, both in quantity and quality," Isherwood said. "We have a minimum of 63 games scheduled and are slated to play in five tournaments."

The team will travel south to Oklahoma and Arizona for two weeks before opening a home stand that will include the Cornhusker Invitational. Nebraska won the tournament here last year with a 10-9 victory over Drake.

"We are very strong defensively," Isherwood said. "We have the potential to have the best infield ever at NU and one that would rival any in the nation. In our outfield, we've got speed and experience and some top-notch pitchers round out a solid team."

Tennis

Experience marks the lot of both the men's and women's tennis teams this spring.

Coach Jim Porter's men will be led by senior Dan Sloboth of Omaha, a three-year letterman, and Phil Woog, also a three-year letterman, from Mission Viejo, California. A strong supporting cast includes

Kerry McDermott, Kent Lysgaard, Larry Rugg, Scott Baker and others.

Sloboth's sister Sue teams with senior Dee Pavelka to anchor the NU women's team. Sloboth, a junior, is slated to play the number one singles, as is her brother. The top six of the women's team is rounded out by Su Bauers, Judy Huerter, Sue Moore and Penny Tourtellot. The NU women's team is coached for the first time by Mark Ziegenbein, who also serves as the head pro at the Lincoln Racquet Club.

The women's team shared the Big Eight championship last year with Oklahoma, after winning it outright the year before. Sloboth and Pavelka were conference singles champions, along with Vickie Maseman, who graduated. Nebraska boasted an 11-2 dual record last season and travelled to the Region 6 tournament where they finished second.

The NU women will make a swing through Texas late in March, and during the same time, the men's team will be on a week-long tour through California. The women's Big Eight meet is April 13-14 at Kansas while the men's conference championships will be May 16-18 in Oklahoma City. ★



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Gymnastics — A Program Bursts Into National Prominence

by Rodney Von Busch

A lot of time and ingredients go into building a national gymnastics program. Just ask Nebraska head coach Francis Allen. In ten seasons as the Husker men's gymnastics coach, he's engineered the Cornhuskers' growth from fifth place in the Big 8 Conference in 1969 to the No. 1-

ranked team in the nation this season.

As NU prepares to defend its national ranking in the upcoming regional and NCAA meets, Allen took time out to cite some of the factors important to Nebraska's success.

"It would be hard to point to just one

thing and say it is what we've built our program around," Allen said. "I'm just not able to evaluate all of the different things important to our program at that level.

"If we're talking just in terms of this year alone, I'd have to say the situation is three-fold. First, Larry Gerard was injured last season and we were able to redshirt him for this season. Second would have to be Jim Hartung signing a national letter of intent to come to Nebraska, and thirdly, we've got a good team without either of them. We wouldn't be able to win the national title without them, but we would still have a good team."

However, Allen said Nebraska's success is owed to more than just the talent of the present team members.

"We have, without a doubt, two of the finest assistant coaches in the country," Allen said of aides Jim Howard and Jim Gottschalk. "In fact, Jim Howard has to be considered one of the best coaches in the country."

Allen's own coaching experience began soon after graduating from Nebraska in 1964.

After competing on Nebraska's 1964 Big 8 championship team where Allen won the parallel bars event, he started working for a local dance studio as an instructor in acrobatic dancing. Allen performed those duties for several years before he decided to no longer ignore his real interest — coaching gymnastics.

Allen had organized an age-group gymnastics program even before his graduation, but the time came in 1969 when he knew coaching was his first love.

Three years after coming to Nebraska, Allen, in cooperation with the athletic department, opened the Nebraska School of Gymnastics. The Nebraska School of Gymnastics, according to Allen, fills a void in gymnastics coaching that the public schools aren't able to deal with.

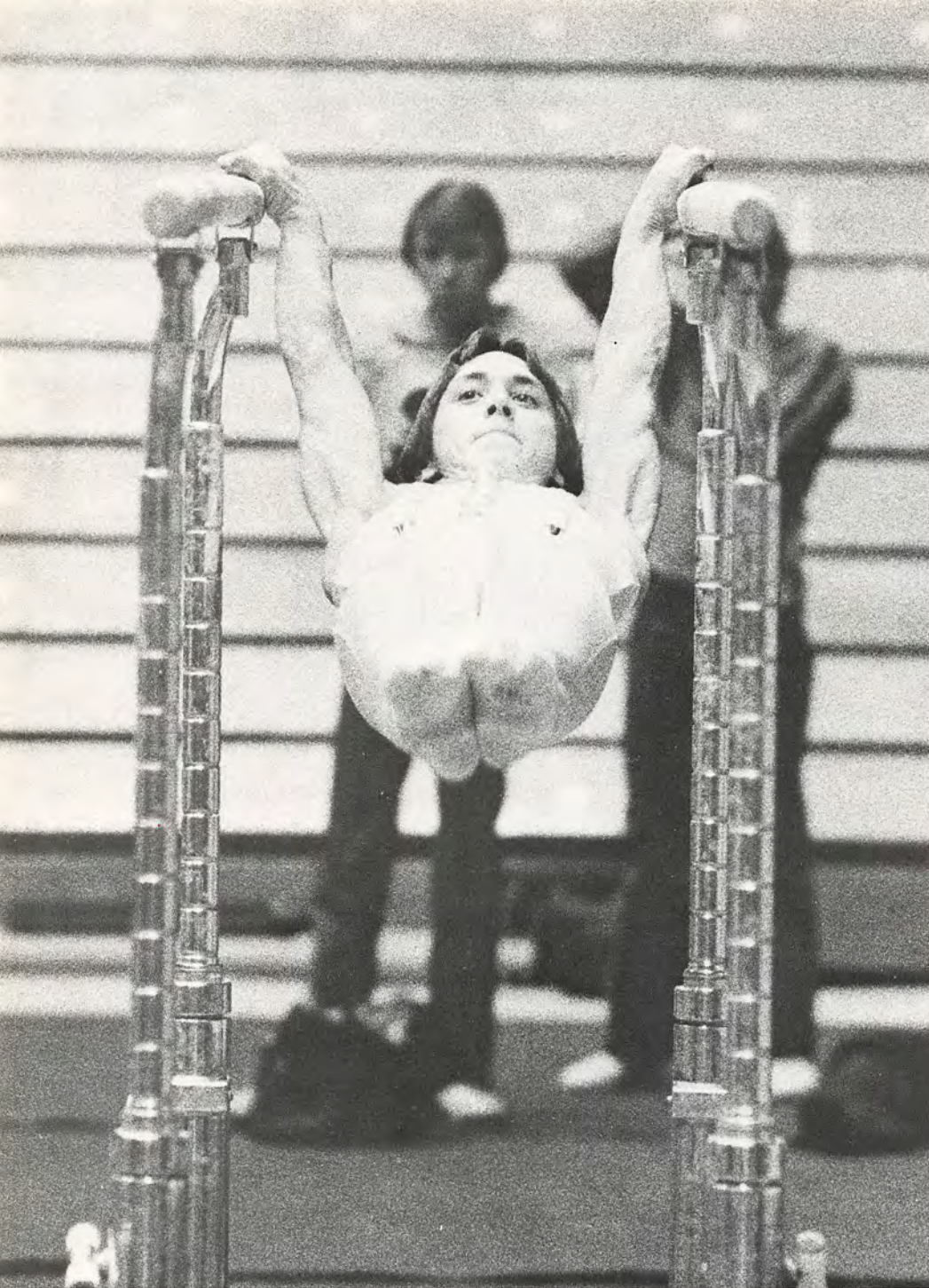
"There is a real need for more coaching than what the kids are getting in school," Allen said. "The public schools can't turn out outstanding gymnasts without the cooperation of the 'Y' or the School of Gymnastics. To become a good gymnast, you have to be able to work out five days a week — every week. The public schools don't have the time, facilities, coaches or

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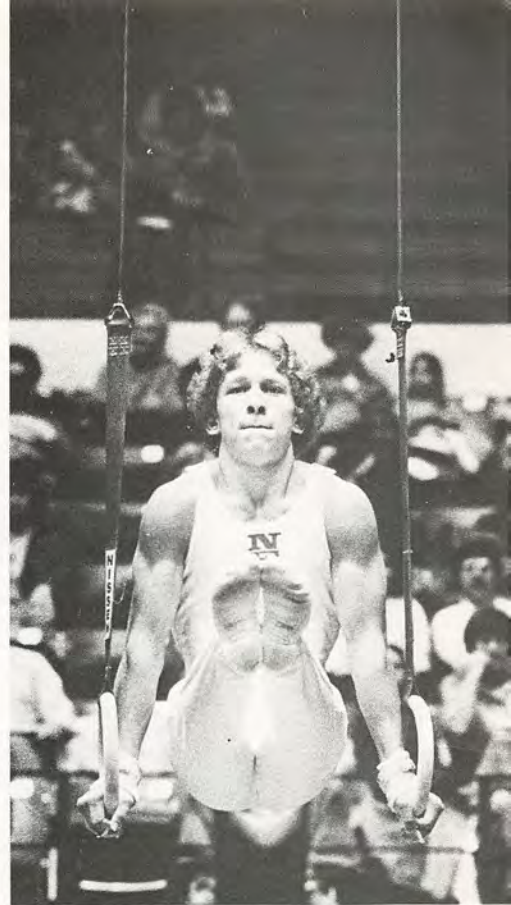
Larry Gerard performs a Stutzkehre on the parallel bars before an avid and growing home group of fans. Gerard, who was injured last season, is one of the main reasons for Nebraska's number one ranking this year.

Photo by Ted Kirk





1.



3.

GYMNASTICS



STOP ACTION

Photos by Ted Kirk

(Clockwise) 1. A pensive Jim Hartung watches his teammates. 2. Larry Gerard performs a difficult maneuver on the parallel bars. 3. Freshman sensation Jim Hartung steadies himself on the rings. 4. Larry Gerard shows incredible strength on the rings. 5. Steve Todd works on the pommel horse. 6. Jim Hartung is caught mid-air during his highbar routine.

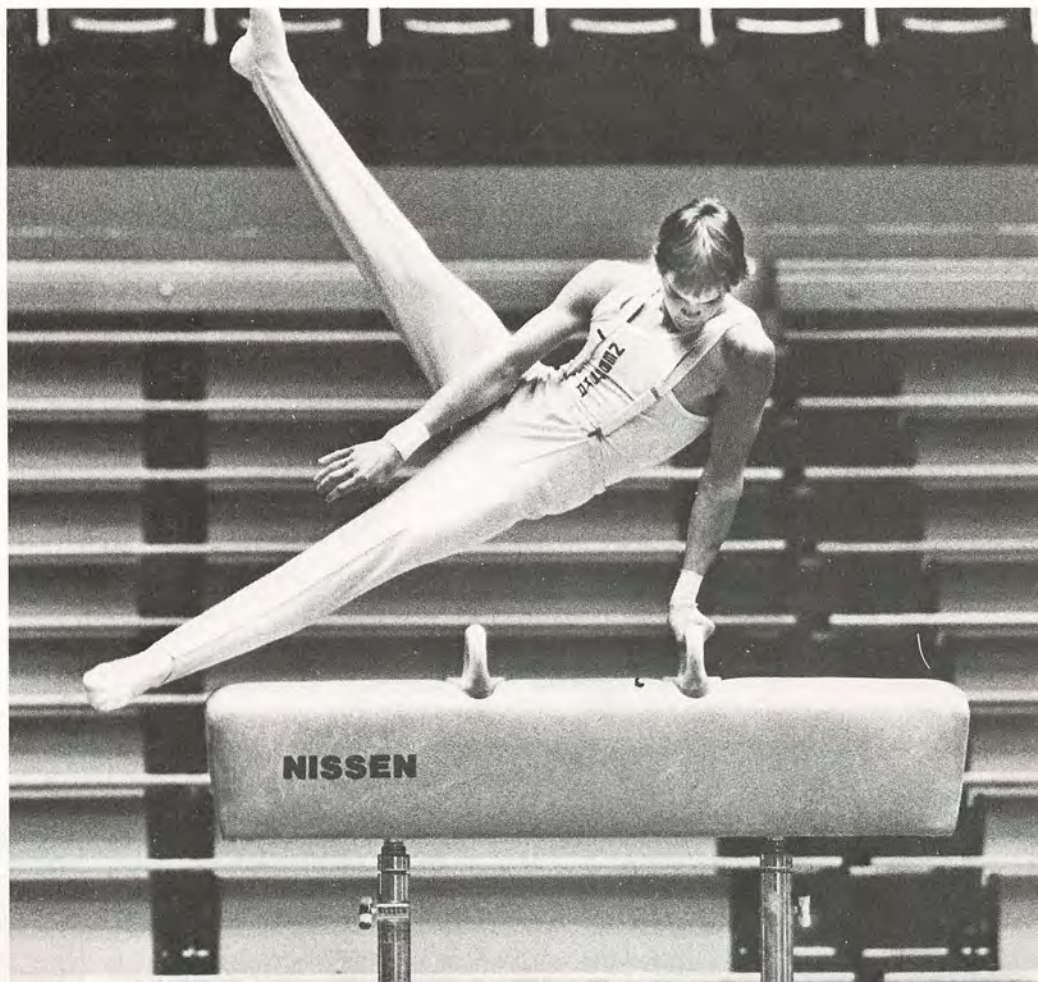
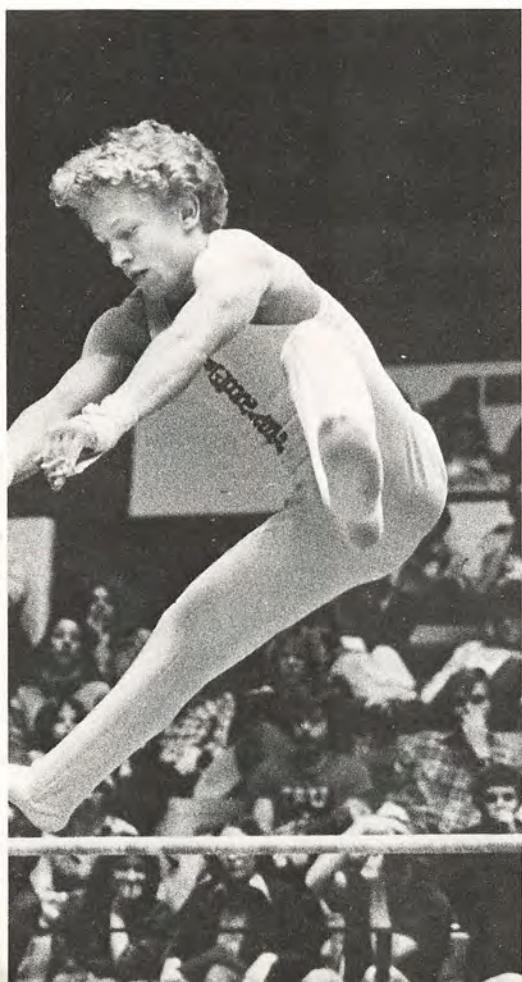


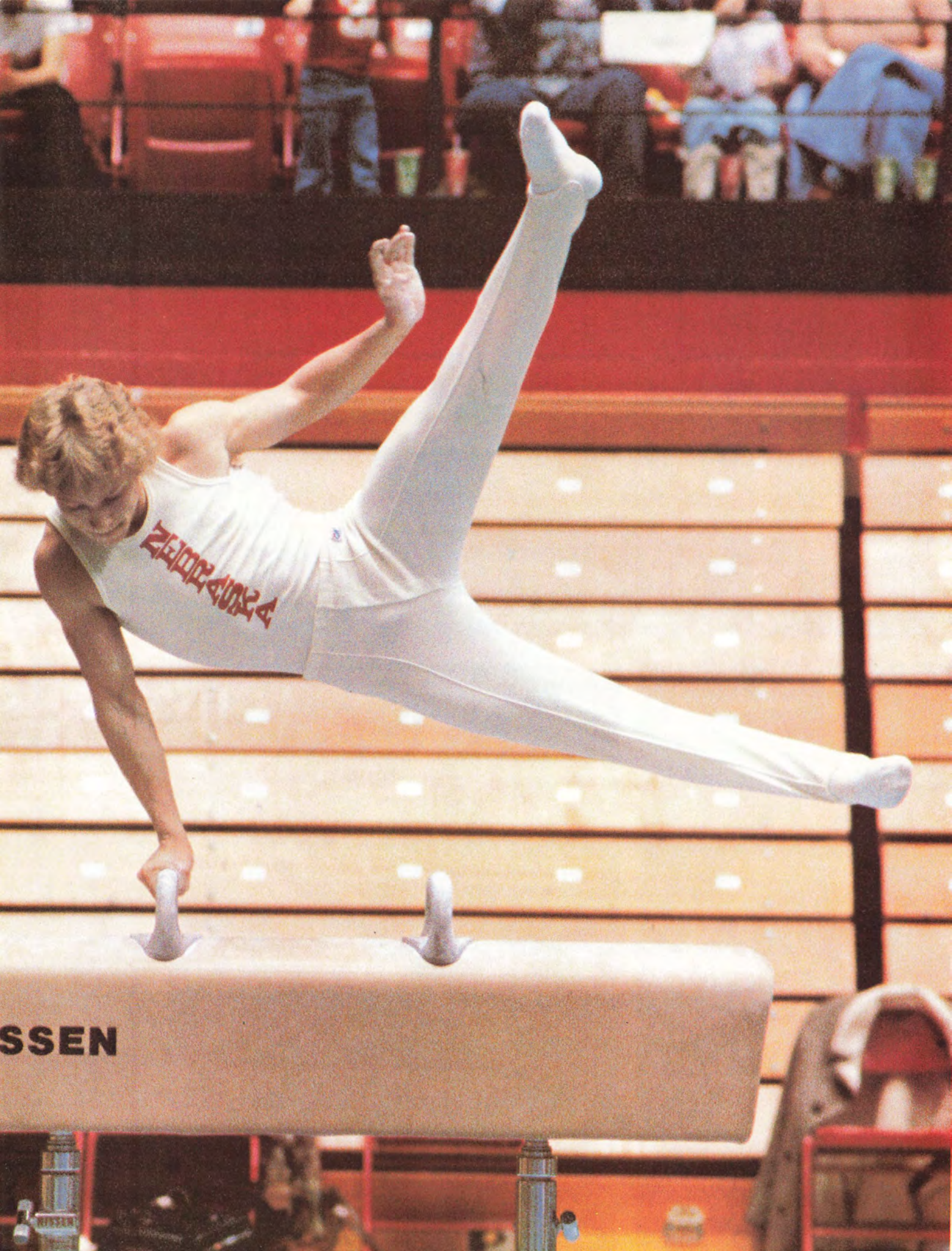


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5.







Larry Gerard performs a bar vault on the high bar. The high bar is considered by many to be the most dangerous event in the men's events, yet it is crucial to score well in the high bar to win team and all-around titles.

Photo by Ted Kirk

(continued from page 15)
the money to do the job alone."

Two days after the gymnastics school opened, enrollment was over 250 students, mostly girls, according to Allen. That figure has now climbed to over 500 youths of both sexes from grade school to high school age.

Three present gymnastics team members came through the ranks of the School of Gymnastics: seniors Larry Gerard and Kirk Fridrich and sophomore Mark Hobson.

"I certainly can't claim all of our success on the School of Gymnastics," Allen said. "But in 1976, the year we won the Big 8 title, most of the team members came through our age-group program. We've had some pretty tremendous success stories.

"We actually didn't get Larry Gerard until the summer before he came to school here, but he was All-America in both 1976 and 1977. Duane West, who won the Big 8 title in floor exercise in 1977, went all the way from the bottom to the top. When I first

saw him, I didn't think he had the makings of a good gymnast."

Allen pointed out that it would be hard to overlook some of the school's other accomplishments as minor.

"It's not as much fun as winning the national title would be, if indeed we win it," Allen said. "But, it can be real gratifying from the teaching standpoint when a kid who thought he would never be able to do a back handspring does one for the first time."

Allen said the Nebraska School of Gymnastics also accomplishes something else.

"The school generates interest in the university program and revenue needed to hire good assistant coaches. It also has strong recruiting implications, meaning that we can offer a recruit the opportunity, after four years in school, to teach and earn enough money for a fifth year of school. It also has some of the benefits of a club. All of the kids that are in the school know the guys on the team and show strong support."

The large crowds and the hospitality provided by parents and the Nebraska Gymnastics Booster Club at home meets are also important, according to Allen.

"Other teams love to come to Nebraska for a meet," Allen said. "A hospitality room

is always set up for the coaches and the thing that is great is the large number of good gymnastics fans that are in the stands."

Nebraska hosts an average crowd of 3,000 at home gymnastics meets this season.

"I had two recruits in for the LSU meet and neither could believe the size or reaction of our crowd," Allen said. "When they see something like that, it isn't long before they're impressed and are interested in becoming part of the program.

"We've never really had any high school bluechippers other than Gerard and Hartung. A Nebraska gymnast has always had to pay the price to be good and I never want to get to the point where our program gets too big to have room for those kind of kids. But, there are some very good high school kids who we're looking at."

Allen said there are other factors that have been important to Nebraska's growth and success and that he's conscious of all of them.

"Right now I would have to say I'm in an ideal situation," Allen said. "Anyone else who had been given the opportunities that I have would be enjoying success too. Any head coach with as big a program as ours can't say that he did it all alone. ★

Freshman Jim Hartung performs a front scissors on the pommel horse in home action this year. Except for Kurt Thomas, many feel that Hartung is the best American gymnast. He could win the all-around at the NCAA Championships in Baton Rouge this year if he continues to perform like he has so far this season.

Photo by Ted Kirk



Andre Smith —

Looking for a Reason to Smile

by Mike Babcock

You would expect the Benjamin D. Smith family portrait to include at least one rather prominent member who wasn't smiling when the camera flashed. There, preserved in the imaginary photograph, you would see Benjamin, his wife Anna, six daughters, and four sons . . . the tallest son, Andre, probably wouldn't even be faking just a little bit of a grin. He wouldn't be frowning exactly, but he certainly wouldn't be smiling, not Andre.

It's Andre Smith's nature not to smile. Too much basketball on the playgrounds and in the gymnasiums of Chicago's southwest side. The leading scorer during the recently concluded Nebraska basketball season doesn't even smile when he's popping one of those soft jump shots, which he does with 57 per cent accuracy.

On the court, Smith has the stern and unyielding demeanor of a Puritan minister. He looks like he has a continual migraine headache as he sweeps the boards for the Cornhuskers. The absence of a smile has become as much his trademark as the little flick of the wrist and the follow-through when he shoots a free throw.

Only when you ask Andre about his chiseled-in-granite, game-face, does he smile. The near-frown melts into a laugh. "As I was growing up, the thing was, if you got to smiling too much out there (on the court), people would get the idea that maybe you were a punk or something. They thought maybe you were soft-hearted," he said. "Well, that's where I got it from. I just couldn't smile that much.

"I could see it if you were joking or something, but if you were just going around constantly happy, well, no . . . you couldn't really do that in my neighborhood because people would try to take advantage of you any way they could."

Taking advantage of Andre Smith is not

something which comes easily for opposing players. He may not average many smiles per game, but as a freshman, Smith was the Cornhuskers' super-sub and averaged 9.3 points. This year, as a sophomore, he earned second team All-Big Eight honors, was the team's leading scorer (with a 13.5 average), and finished second to Carl McPipe in rebounding. NU assistant Coach Tom Baack called Andre "one of the five best players in the Big Eight by the end of the season."

Andre Smith didn't begin playing basketball in earnest until he was in the seventh grade; before then, he spent his spare time hanging around with the guys in his neighborhood. A physical education instructor who had played basketball with Andre's brother, Benjamin, encouraged him to get started. Five years later, he was averaging 25 points per game for John F. Kennedy High School. Opposing defenses couldn't do anything with him.

"My first game, I had about 41 points against a man-to-man defense," Smith said. "After that, teams never played me man-to-man. It was always box-and-one. They had two or three guys on me, and I couldn't get the ball. But most of the time we were blowing teams out of the gym because the other guys picked up the slack, and I could still rebound and block shots."

In a game against Chicago Hubbard — at Hubbard — Andre was waiting his turn in line for lay-up drills when a Hubbard fan came charging onto the court like a maniac. "He swung at me and missed. When I hit him in the nose, he went berserk and tried to attack my coach. The guys on the team said I broke his nose. All I know is, it seemed to go all over the place," Smith said. "Usually I had some protection with me when I went to away games, but I didn't have any that night. I'm just glad the stands weren't filled.

"Later, during the game, I ran down the court a couple of times, and the fans threw snowballs with rocks in them at me. You always had to watch the game and the stands."

But the 6-7, 217-pound Smith is not easily intimidated, not by opponents and

not by the crazies who hang out on some of the streets of Chicago. That's why you won't see him smile much. It's something he picked up playing schoolyard pick-up games and neighborhood tournaments. An encounter at the Hearst Community Center was particularly forgettable.

"It was this one incident where I was playing basketball and this guy got kind of mad because I was being pretty physical. I guess I must have elbowed him in the head or something, and we got into a little rumble and had to sit out of the game for about five minutes," Smith said. "This guy had a tendency to carry a pistol in his bag when he came to my neighborhood — actually, he was crazy, and I didn't trust him.

"He didn't get any bright ideas, but I was cautious after he got to woofin' at me so much. I just played the rest of the game quiet and watched what I was doing."

"Woofin'" is a term Andre frequently uses when he talks basketball. It's a verbal gaming technique city players use to bait their opponents. He's not much for "woofin'" at anyone, but he can let them know where he stands in a given situation. "I just give 'em a couple of elbows they'll remember, and they'll know . . . they'll know," he said.

Smith says the best way to perfect basketball abilities is to play in the summer tournaments in and around Chicago. NBA players like Mickey Johnson of the Bulls and Golden State's Sonny Parker — area alums — show up to provide the competition and the pride that goes with it. The city is one big basketball clinic through the summer months. "Last summer George Gervin dropped around," Andre said — Gervin, the "Ice Man" is the NBA's leading scorer.

"If I could go home for the summer, I'd play in those tournaments. As I was growing up, I always played against the older guys. I got pushed around a lot; they pushed me, but I fought back pretty hard and stayed with it," Smith said. "I've played against some pretty decent ballplayers in my time.

"If I don't get back to Chicago this summer, I won't improve my game that much because of the difference in the level of

(Left) Andre Smith learned basketball the hard way on the playgrounds of Chicago's southside. Hoping to be a parole officer someday, Andre thinks he can help young juveniles because he can relate to their situations — situations much like his own when he was growing up.

Photo by Ted Kirk



Coming into his own as a solid basketball player, Andre proved he was major college calibre this year by leading the Huskers in scoring (13.5), being their number two rebounder (6.9) and being named to the UPI second team All-Big Eight squad.

Photo by Ted Kirk

competition here. In Chicago, you run into so many players who are better than you," he said.

Andre would like to see Moses Malone play — in person. He figures he could pick up some rebounding pointers from the Houston Rocket star. "I'd like to watch him for a couple of games. I hear a lot about his rebounding, so that's who I'd like to analyze and see what I could pick up on," Smith said. "I've only seen him on television; he's awesome around the offensive boards."

Andre Smith's neighborhood is a long way from Lincoln, NE. He grew up south and west of ancient International Amphitheatre, where Chicago's Public League championship basketball game is played each March on a Tuesday afternoon. It's played in the afternoon to avoid problems — someone was stabbed in the parking lot one year — and only students from participating schools are allowed to buy tickets to the game.

Smith's neighborhood is well beyond the

Chicago Stockyards, out near Bedford Park and once-busy Midway Airport. But the pressures of living in the city for 18 years and a desire for a warmer climate caused Andre to look elsewhere for a college. He narrowed choices which also included Purdue, Kentucky and Texas-Arlington to Pan American and Nebraska.

Pan American is located in Edinburg, Tex., and would have given him a warmer climate, but it was too far from Chicago, so he selected Nebraska. "I like it here. I like the city (Lincoln); it's quiet, and it definitely slowed me down as far as trouble was concerned," Smith said. "As you're growing up, you get into a lot of fights and other things, and I was looking to settle down a little bit when I got here ... and this sure has done that."

Big Eight arenas aren't always the friendliest places for an opposing player, especially one as noticeable as Andre Smith. The fans at Missouri and Oklahoma State were particularly abusive to the quiet Cornhusker this season. But things are better in the Big Eight than they were in Chicago.

"The way to get respect if you go to some other part of the city to play basketball — if you're really good or whatever — is, you just have to learn to keep your mouth shut because some people just won't accept too much mouthing off. I never woofed too much playing basketball," he said.

"When you're in other neighborhoods playing, they'll look at you strange. They know you're not from there, and you have to be extra careful."

Like the time the guy in the stands pointed his finger at Andre during a high school game. "I was shooting a free throw, and I saw this guy doing this at me ... pow, pow," Smith said, squeezing his finger on the trigger of an imaginary gun.

Andre Smith didn't just choose Nebraska as a place to play basketball. He wants an education like his older brothers and sisters, all of whom have college degrees or are in the process of finishing them. Brother Benjamin has a masters degree in business administration. Sister Debra is attending Howard University Medical School.

Andre's goal is to be a parole officer some day, and you can figure he will inspire both respect and admiration in his young charges.

"I like talking to a lot of juveniles, like when I was growing up, put myself in their predicament as far as making it is concerned and knowing what is in store for them," he said. "I like to talk about all the opportunities out there for them and how important an education is now. I guess I just like to deal with younger people."

Right now, Andre says he's the second

biggest thing ever to hit his neighborhood. The first was a baseball player named Matthew Long, who got a tryout with the Baltimore Orioles. But no one ever heard anything about Long once he left. That hasn't been a problem for Andre Smith.

"I guess I was okay once I made the newspapers back there. Now when I go back, a lot of kids are looking up to me . . . a lot of the older guys, too. They keep telling me to keep striving for whatever my goals are," he said. No one tells him to smile, though. You probably wouldn't recognize him if he did it too much.

Freshman teammate Ray Collins also comes from Chicago, and he and Andre live in the same dorm at Nebraska.

"He's not really quiet," Collins said. "You just have to know him pretty well. People in the dorm ask me why he never smiles . . . but I guess you could say, he's like a gentle giant."

Smile Andre. You've earned the right, and that's no joke. ★

Only a sophomore, the 6-10 Smith will be one of the star returning players that next year's team will be built around. With his talent and a desire to improve, a bright future is ahead for Andre. Photo by Ted Kirk



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Teamwork Pays Off For Gymnasts

by Ryly Jane Hambleton

There's a new air of confidence exuded from members of the Nebraska women's gymnastics team.

It comes from a number of reasons. The fruition of a demanding training program, a realization of abilities, and a desire to gain the recognition in which the NU men's team is basking are just a few of the reasons why team members desire to excel.

"Most of the guys have a lot of confidence and that carries over to us," said senior Peggy Liddick. "We all know each other and work out together sometimes, so we get a good feeling from them."

Patty Carmichael, a junior who transferred from the University of Illinois two years ago, cited the training program at Nebraska.

"After a couple of years in a strong training program like this, we are able to throw tricks and do sets we couldn't do without such a strong regimen," said Carmichael. The Montgomeryville, PA, native said college gymnastics was a bit more difficult for her. "I had a specific goal set in high school and that was to make the national team. When I injured my ankle, things started to fall through. But I was third in the all-around in the 1975 senior nationals and I knew I could do well."

After a year at Illinois, Carmichael had had enough of the poor equipment and the



Peggy Liddick does a dance transition between tumbling runs in the floor exercise. Liddick, a senior, holds the top all-around score for the year (34.95).

Photo by Ted Kirk

loss of a broadcasting sequence in her journalism major, so she left the Big Ten school. In her freshman year there, she had finished second to Nancy Theis, who competed in the Olympics for the United States.

Carmichael and Larry Gerard of the Husker men's team are engaged to be married this summer and it was Gerard who brought Carmichael to Nebraska.

"I first met Larry in 1975 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, when we were both at a USGF meet. I kept running into him at different meets," she said. "Finally, though, when he was at the Liberty Cup meet in Philadelphia, I took him home to meet my parents. They were asking him all about Nebraska and I guess it was then I decided to come here."

Carmichael has scored 9.3 in the vault this year and leads the team with two 9.2s in the floor exercise. Her top all-around mark this year was 34.65 against LSU. Carmichael won the Big 8 floor exercise and was second in the vault in the league meet.

Liddick holds the team record this year with a 9.4 in the vault, which is also an all-time school record. She currently has the best balance beam score (8.9) and the top all-around score (34.95).

"The beam is a mental thing," Liddick said. "You have to learn to work with it and not let it work against you," said the senior. "You just do the routine over and over again. I used to just work on specific tricks in my set, but I've learned that you have to do the whole routine to get to know it and feel right."

"It took me three years of hard work to finally get the concentration I need for the beam," said Liddick, who also was a track star in high school and ran for the university her freshman year. "I got started in gymnastics pretty late — about 14 or 15. By that time, lots of gymnasts have already been in pressure-packed competition. I was just starting and I was still running track."

"I always like track, but gymnastics is so much more creative than track. There you just run in a straight line or around a track."



Rene Reisdorff does a dance transition on the balance beam in home action this year. Rene, a newcomer to the Husker gymnastics program, has found that college competition puts more emphasis on the team accomplishments than on individual effort.

Photo by Ted Kirk

Here, you not only have to perfect tricks, but you have to be able to put them together to make sense," Liddick explained.

"This year has been especially good. A lot of us are really starting to get confidence and the crowds are just great. That's one of the pluses of having the men's team ranked number one," Liddick said. "People come to see them and they get excited about our routines, too."

There is one extra pressure on Liddick this year. She is the only senior on the team and is looked to by the rest of the team as a leader.

"It's a big responsibility," she said. "When someone on the team is having a down day, I'm designated to try to bring them back up. When I have a bad day, I have to keep from showing it. The responsibility has

(continued)

really helped my confidence."

Crissy Robertson is another on the team who says confidence has been half the battle for her this year.

"Now when I see someone do something, I think that if she can do it, then so can I," said the junior from Brookfield, Wisconsin. "We've been working a lot harder and now we're all helping each other more. Right now, we are trying to learn handstands on the bars, and it would be difficult, except we all help each other with little things that make it easier."

Liddick also pointed out that the team spirit is helping the freshmen improve much more quickly than she was able to.

"Karen (Madsen) and Marcia (Austin) have really shown a lot of improvement," said the Lincoln Northeast graduate. "And having Rene has made a difference, too."

Rene Reisdorff joined the Husker program at the semester break after escalating her high school program in order to get to the university that much quicker.

"The attitude of the gym here is just great," said Rene, a Omaha Bryan graduate. "Here we think of the team before we worry about individual accomplishments. We don't worry about beating anyone on the team, but how we want everyone to do as well for the team as they can."

"We really psych ourselves up for a meet. We're all pulling for each other," she continued. "You hope someone learns a new trick to help the team score. In high school and club, there just wasn't that feeling."

Reisdorff recalled many workouts in the gym alone, with no one to tell her to work on her weaknesses. The individual work was difficult, she admits.

"That's why I wanted to come here as quickly as possible," she explained. "I knew how the team worked out and how much Coach (Judy) Schalk demanded. In the gym alone, I'd work on what I liked and sometimes not on what I should have worked on."

The team is sure about one thing. The increased crowds are a positive influence on the team, as is the success and ranking of the men's team.

"We know all of them and they know all of us," said Reisdorff. "It's nice to root for each other." ★

Crissy Robertson, a junior from Brookfield, Wisconsin, has placed consistently for the Huskers this season. She feels that as her confidence has improved, so has her performance.

Photo by Ted Kirk



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SWIMMING 1979

FROM THE CELLAR TO FUTURE CONTENDERS



Soaring Steve Elliott pulled out a narrow win over Tom Anagnos of Kansas State to bring home a gold medal in the three-meter diving in this year's Big Eight meet. Elliott, who also doubles with the NU gymnastics team, was followed in the three-meter by two other Huskers. Lance Green and Todd Bendkowski, who finished fifth and sixth, respectively.

by Rodney Von Busch

It's been a long and anxious year since Cal Bentz became the Nebraska head swimming coach last spring. It's also been an exciting year, climaxed on March 3 as the Huskers captured fourth place in the 47th Annual Big 8 Swimming and Diving Championships at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Kansas successfully defended its Big 8 title with 405 points while Iowa State and Missouri finished second and third with 343 and 314 points, respectively. Five conference records fell during the three-day competition as Big 8 teams qualified five individuals and four relay teams for the NCAA meet in Cleveland, Ohio, March 29-31. Kansas sophomore Steve Graves was named the meet's outstanding swimmer as he accounted for three new Big 8 records.

But, the big story of the meet was Nebraska's performance. The Huskers shunned their seven-year-old role as the conference's bottom team to capture three individual gold medals and finish just 9½ points out of third place. Nebraska school records were broken during the meet to pace the Huskers to their best performance in a conference meet since 1966, when the Cornhuskers finished third in the Big 8 and 15th nationally.

Nebraska freshmen Rick Rhodes and Steve Elliott captured the gold medals in the 100-yard breaststroke and three-meter diving events while sophomore Will Douglass won the 200-yard backstroke to account for the Huskers' other gold medal.

"I'm not surprised at all with our final position in the team standings," Bentz said. "We did a great job in the meet. The other schools had to deal with us in every event. We're on the move up. We went from seventh to fourth this year and now our

plans are to continue to move up in the conference standings."

Nebraska scored in every event as the 1979 Huskers outscored last year's team by more than a 4-to-1 margin. Nebraska only scored 72 points while finishing last in the 1978 meet, compared to the 304½ points posted in this year's meet.

Nebraska was third in the meet until the last event. When Missouri's 400-yard free-style relay team set a new Big 8 record however, Nebraska's lead disappeared.

Nebraska surprised many of the conference coaches by placing third after Thursday's competition. Nebraska trailed only Kansas and Iowa State and led Missouri by 10½ points.

While Steve Graves was busy pacing Kansas to first place with a new Big 8 record in the 200-yard individual medley, the Huskers began their own assault on the school record book.

(continued)

Freshman Anders Rutqvist of Mariestad, Sweden, dumped his own 500-yard freestyle record, placing fifth in the finals with a time of 4:34.758. Dick Conrardt and Mark Crowder followed suit by lowering the 200-yard individual medley and 50-yard freestyle records. The Huskers' 400-yard medley relay team lowered the school record.

The Huskers also had a fine showing in the one-meter diving event, where Todd Bendkowski, Elliott and Lance Green were fourth, fifth, and seventh, respectively.

Nebraska's lead over Missouri in its bid for a third place finish dwindled during the second day of competition to just 2½ points, but on Friday the Huskers appeared to be within striking distance of second-place Iowa State.

Three Big 8 records and five Nebraska varsity records fell to highlight Friday's competition. Graves lowered the 400-yard individual medley Big 8 record and Chuck Graves of Iowa State and Missouri's relay team broke the 200-yard freestyle and 800-yard freestyle relay records.

The highlight of Nebraska's Friday competition came in the 100-yard breaststroke, when freshman Rick Rhodes captured Nebraska's first gold medal in a Big 8 meet since 1977.

After Saturday's preliminaries, Nebraska

still appeared to have a shot at a second- or third-place finish. On the last day of competition, Kansas, Iowa State and Nebraska each qualified 13 swimmers for finals while Missouri qualified 12.

Of the Huskers who qualified for the finals, Douglass and Elliott led their events. Both came through with gold medal performances — Douglass in the 200-yard backstroke, Elliott in the three-meter diving.

Douglass shattered his own 200-yard backstroke record, easily outdistancing the rest of the field by 1.2 seconds. Douglass was clocked in 1:55.30. However, Elliott's performance was perhaps more dramatic.

The freshman from Amarillo, Texas, who also competes with the top-ranked Nebraska gymnastics team, almost missed the meet because of an ankle injury. He hadn't practiced with the diving team since injuring his ankle two weeks earlier at a gymnastics duel against Oklahoma and only got the green light from the doctor to compete 15 minutes before the meet began on Thursday.

Elliott had to have his ankle wrapped after each dive during the one-meter competition and in the finals of the three-meter diving. He was still not at 100 percent.

To add to the drama, the three-meter diving event was the second-to-last event of the meet and Nebraska had to place all three of its divers in the top six for the Huskers to have a chance at third place.

Elliott captured the gold medal by only a 461.96-460.29 margin over Tom Anagnos of Kansas. Lance Green and Todd Bendkowski placed fifth and sixth in the event for the Huskers.

"I'm really happy with the way we dived in the finals," Nebraska diving coach Jeff Huber said. "We needed to get three guys in the top six in the three meter diving and we accomplished it. Steve really came through, but we owe a lot to the Nebraska trainers for pulling him through in time for the meet."

Elliott's and Douglass's achievements were not the only fine performances of the final day of competition. Graves broke NU swimmer Bryan Moss's two-year-old 200-yard breaststroke Big 8 record and Missouri's 400-yard freestyle relay team lowered the Big 8 mark. Five Nebraska varsity records also fell during Saturday's competition to bring the total new school records to 15.

Prior to the meet, Bentz promised that Nebraska's presence would be noticed at the Big 8 meet and afterwards, as he congratulated his team members, he



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seemed assured that the other Big 8 schools knew Nebraska had been around.

"Those three gold medals are a real indication that we were here and that we didn't go unnoticed," Bentz said. "We know what we can do and after this meet everyone else knows that Nebraska swimming is for real. They know that we're someone to be dealt with. There just wasn't an event where we didn't score and have something to do with the outcome.

The 1979 swimming season is not over yet for the Huskers. All three of the relay teams qualified for the AAU nationals and both Elliott and Green qualified for the NCAA Regional diving meet at three meters. However, Bentz is clearly looking ahead to next year.

"When we recruited the kids last year, all we had to talk to them about was what we had planned for the future," Bentz said. "The kids who came to Nebraska had to gamble that we would be able to follow through with those plans. This year we can tell recruits what we've already accomplished. We've made plans to become a Big 8 power in swimming and this year was only a step in that direction." ★



Support came in all forms during the Big Eight Championships held in the Bob Devaney Sport Center this year. The fourth place finish by the Huskers pleased not only local fans, but also pleased NU coach Cal Bentz.

Photo by Ted Kirk



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A YEAR OF NO

by Mike Babcock

It came as an unpleasant surprise to Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne when DeWaine "Redd" Wright decided not to sign a national letter of intent to become a Cornhusker. It was a surprise, but it wasn't a mystery.

Right up to the February 21 national signing date, Osborne had hopes that the 6-2, 215-pound running back from Pinkston High School in Dallas, Texas, would cast his college lot with Nebraska. Wright looked like a good one from the state that produced Earl Campbell and Billy Sims, college football's most recent Heisman Trophy winners. No one was mentioning Wright and the Heisman in the same breath, but he did have 104.5 speed for 40 yards, and despite being bothered by an ankle injury his senior season, he gained 1,018 yards out of the tailback position in a multiple-offense backfield — perfect on-the-job training for someone with aspirations of playing at Nebraska.

But high school football players being pursued by college recruiters aren't noted for the constancy, and on the morning of February 21, DeWaine Wright was just another name among the hundreds of prep athletes who signed national letters to play football somewhere or other. While in this instance, the somewhere for Wright proved to be Arizona State — not because he didn't like Nebraska and Tom Osborne, but because he didn't want to get lost in the shuffle of quality running backs harvested by the Cornhuskers in 1979.

The excellence of this year's freshman crop, however, was so good that Wright's



Although it is too early to tell exactly where the new recruits will fit into the system, Coach Osborne feels that this year's class may be one of the best in recent years for the Huskers.

DEFICIENCIES

defection had a minimal impact on the overall recruiting effort. The NCAA's 95 scholarship limitation, including a maximum of 30 in any one year — now requires coaching staffs to be very careful in the selection process and allows very little margin for error.

A quick look at the list of future Huskers would reveal that Nebraska garnered its share of prize high school athletes this year. And for Coach Tom Osborne, it ranks as one of the most successful recruiting ventures since he assumed the Husker head coaching reins in 1973.

Osborne described the group thus: "I thought we probably took fewer marginal players this year than any time I can remember. There are no deficiencies. As far as I know, every one of them checks out on height, weight, speed, and in films. My feeling is that this is the best group since we've been recruiting 30 players."

Nebraska offered 24 football scholarships on February 21 — 22 of them went to high school seniors and the other two went to junior college transfers, Mark Tuck and Henry Waechter. Both are big tackles. Waechter, a 6-6, 250-pounder from Waldorf (Iowa) Junior College already has enrolled and will be eligible to compete in spring football practice. Tuck was recruited by Nebraska out of high school in Matthews, N.C., but the 6-4, 240-pound defensive tackle spent one season playing and getting some grade problems straightened out at Independence (Kan.) Community College.

Of the 22 remaining players who hope to some day become Cornhusker regulars, at least seven are considered running back possibilities. Two others — Rande Johnson and Nate Mason — are quarterbacks, giving Nebraska nine new offensive backfield candidates among 24 recruits. That may seem like a lot, but Osborne doesn't think so, especially since NU's all-time career rushing leader, Richard Berns, has been graduated.

"Last year we felt we were short on running backs, so we tried to pick up a few more this time around," Osborne said. Backfield depth became such a problem in the Orange Bowl that sophomore I-back

Craig Johnson had to fill in at fullback for awhile. Besides, "there aren't nearly the number of running backs someone like Oklahoma would try to recruit," Osborne said. "We don't feel we've overloaded ourselves at all because so many of those people are multi-position athletes."

For instance, Roger Craig, who comes from Davenport, Iowa, is powerful enough to play fullback, but he gained 1,565 yards and scored 27 touchdowns as an I-back. In his team's first-round state playoff game, Craig gained 353 yards and scored all 28 of his team's points in a 29-28 loss. "Playing at Nebraska is a dream come true," he said. "I like a school with nine academic all-conference players."

Coach Tom Osborne:

There are no deficiencies. My feeling is that this is the best group since we've been recruiting 30 players.

Dennis Rogan comes to Lincoln from Colorado Springs (Colo.) Wasson High, where he used his .04.4 speed to gain over 1,500 yards as an I-back on a wishbone team that made the semifinals of the Colorado prep playoffs. But Rogan — sometimes called the "disco king" because of his slick moves — could be tried at wingback. Doug Wilkening, whose Columbine High team lost to Wasson in the quarterfinals, can play I-back, fullback, and perhaps even defense. Wilkening rushed for over 2,000 yards as a senior, and in the playoff game against Wasson, he rushed for 180 yards, scored three touchdowns, and "left defenders strewn all over the field," according to one observer.

Omaha's Craig Holman is a 6-4, 210-pound fullback with .04.7 speed, but he was a Nebraska super-state selection at defensive end. Doug Herrmann comes from Custer, S.D., and is built along the lines of Mount Rushmore at 6-4 and 225 pounds.

He's fast enough to be a track sprinter and played both fullback and linebacker in high school.

Jimmy Austin, a 6-1, 213-pounder from Miami, Fla., can play I-back, fullback, and "two or three places on defense," Osborne says. Austin rushed for 1,000 yards as a junior and gained over 700 his senior season despite missing three and a half games because of a knee injury.

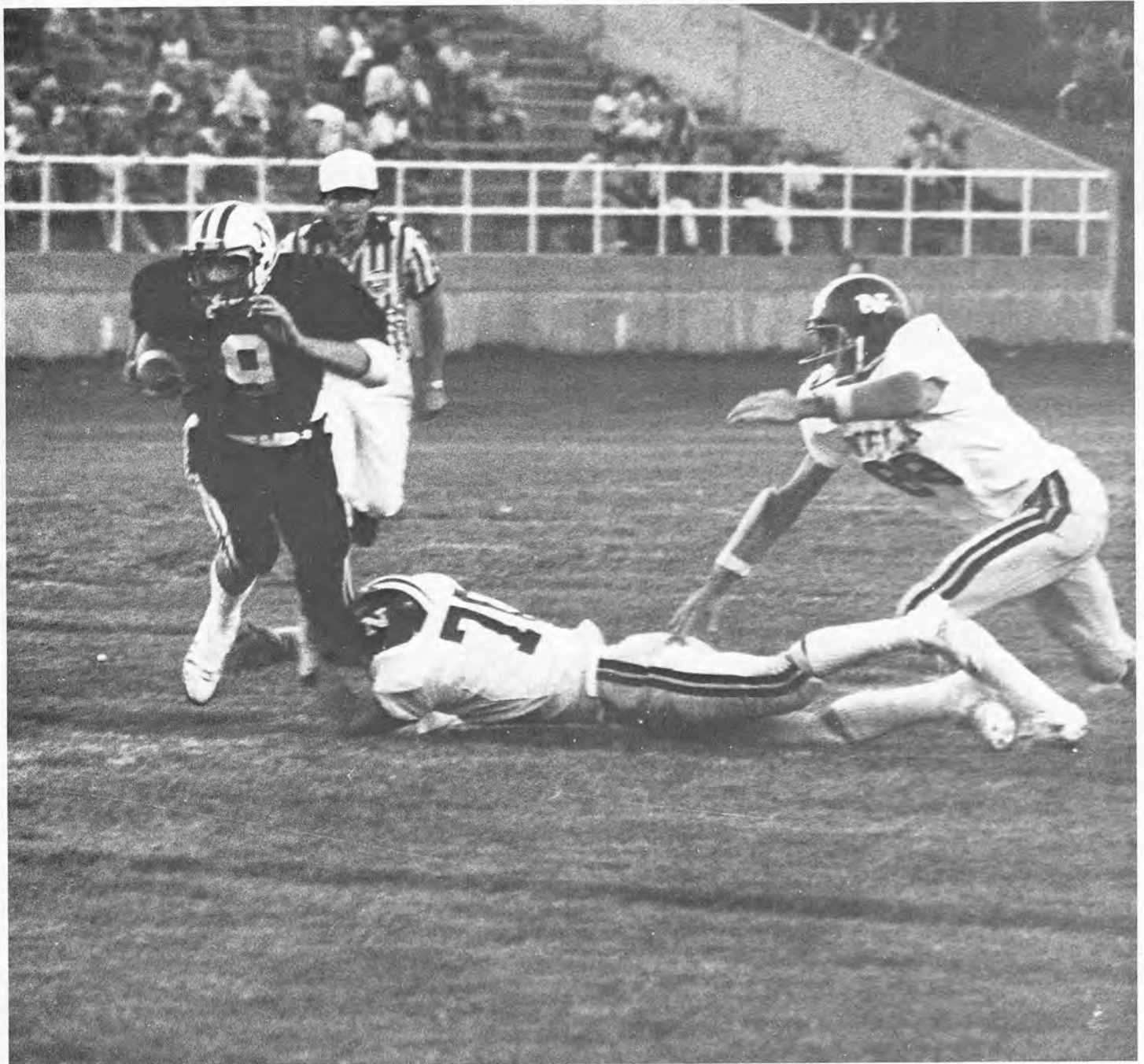
Only Ricky Simmons, a speedster from Greenville, Texas — the town from which the Cornhuskers also will get Mason, the quarterback — is likely to know immediately where he'll be tried. He'll return kicks and learn to play wingback since he's the smallest recruit. But he vows he'll be a college running back someday.

Simmons stands 5-11 and played his senior season at 155 pounds. But Jerry Moore, a former NU assistant who originally had the responsibility of recruiting Simmons for Nebraska, listed him at 175 pounds because he figured the Cornhuskers wouldn't invite such a small player to Lincoln for a visit even if he had rushed for 1,516 yards and scored 18 touchdowns. Moore was convinced that Simmons could play in the Big Eight, but now he wishes he had told the truth about Ricky's size. Moore has since become the head coach at North Texas State, just 50 miles down the road from Greenville, and would like to have Simmons play for him in Denton.

"I knew Nebraska wouldn't take him because they like great big backs. I guess you could say a lie got me in trouble," Moore said the day national letters were signed. He also wanted to land Mason at North Texas State and had Nebraska worrying up until the letters were signed.

With the notable exception of Simmons, Nebraska's recruits all stand at least 6-0 tall and weigh 180 pounds or more. "And we feel they have good speed," Osborne said. "We've got seven or eight players who can run 10-flat (for 100 yards) or better, and three or four who can run :09.5, :09.6 or :09.7. Simmons is probably the fastest; he's run :09.5 and is hoping to run :09.4 or maybe even :09.3 this spring."

(continued)



An excellent drop-back passer as well as an option quarterback, Randee Johnson (Lincoln Northeast) has the size (6-2, 180) and the speed (he was the Class A high school 220-yard dash champion in 1978) to be an excellent prospect for the Husker signal caller position in the future.

Quarterbacks Johnson (Lincoln Northeast) and Mason have good size — both will check in at 6-2 and about 180 pounds — and both have been timed in :04.6 for 40 yards, so they won't be lagging behind the other backs when it comes time for wind sprints in the fall. "We wanted to get two quarterbacks who could run," Osborne said.

Johnson was Nebraska's Class A high school 220-yard dash champ last spring. An excellent drop-back passer, he was recruited more on the strength of his junior

football season since a broken leg in the first game of his senior year sidelined him until the final few games. Johnson has the ability to run the option, while Mason is considered as potentially versatile as Missouri's Phil Bradley in that style of quarterbacking. "I like to run the option and throw. I like a pro-type offense like Nebraska's," Mason said. He rushed for 650 yards and passed for 1,400 yards and 20 touchdowns last season. Mason was considered one of the four or five top quarterback prospects in the Lone Star state.

Grand Island's Jim Jeffries; Neosho, Mo., product Keith Owen; and Jim Corbeil, from Oak Park (Ill.) River Forest High, also split their time as preps between the offensive and defensive backfields. Jeffries was a super-state fullback on Nebraska's Class A football championship team. Owen has roped calves on the junior rodeo circuit, and Corbeil was the Most Valuable Player in the Chicago area's West Suburban League. "I've been at Oak Park for 18 years, and Jim is by far the hardest hitter I've ever seen on a football field," said his coach,

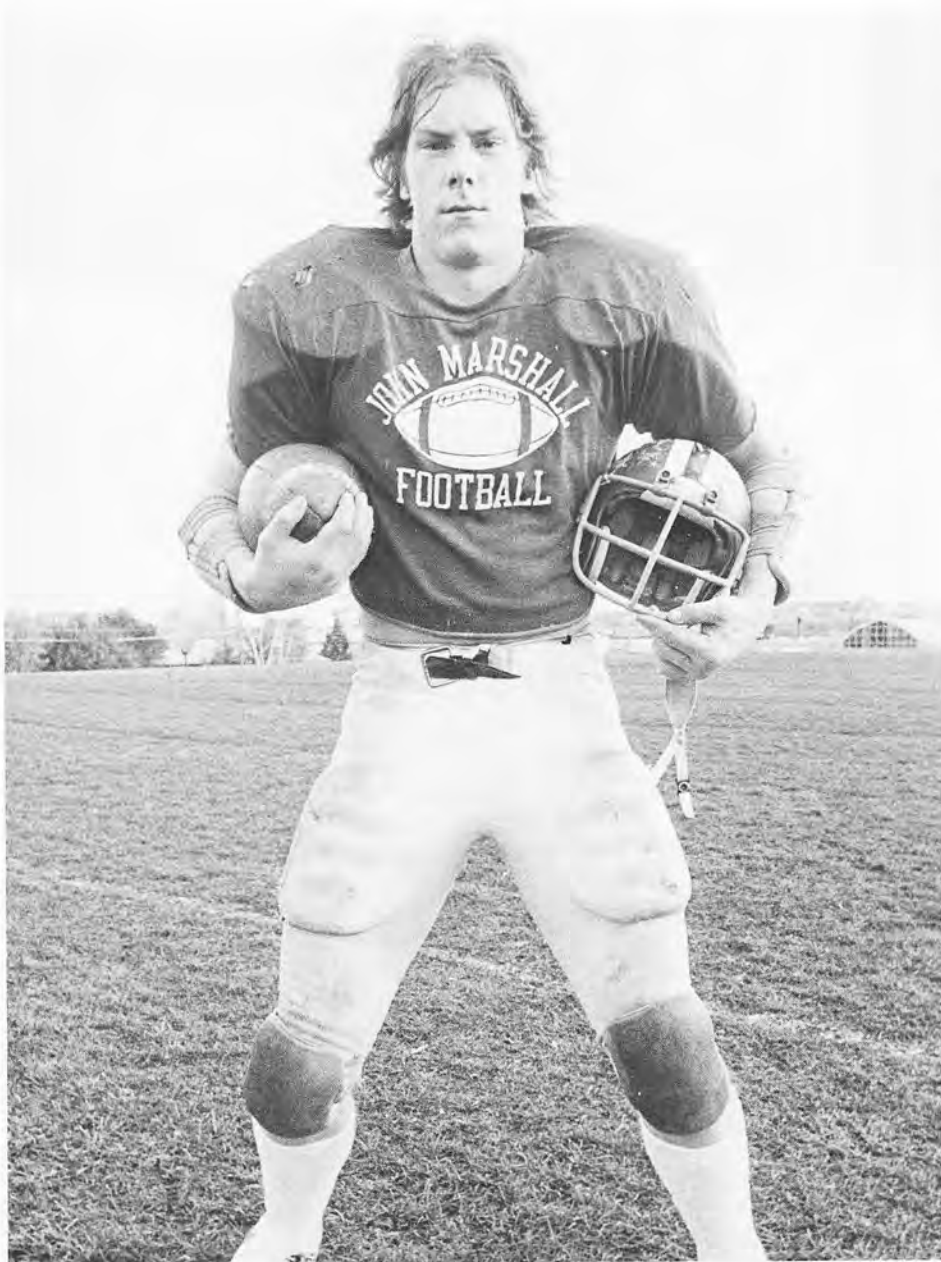
RECRUITING 1979 —

Ed Zembal. All three fall into such a category of hard-hitters, and they seem to have the aggressiveness to earn Husker Black Shirts. Someday, they'll get their first shot at becoming Cornhuskers on defense.

Nebraska also recruited a wealth of talent at offensive tackle. Waechter is one, but there are six others who could play that position based on their high school backgrounds. Three come from in-state, and all are super-state selections from Omaha. Dan Schmeucker (6-5, 250) and Mike Keeler (6-4, 240) both played at Burke; John Sherlock, the state's two-time, un-

defeated Class A heavyweight wrestling champion, comes from Omaha South. He's 6-2, 235, and will also be considered as a defensive player. That's where Sherlock earned his super-state honors; the same was true of Keeler.

Doug Dhein, from Wisconsin Rapids, Wisc., is the tallest tackle — and tallest recruit for that matter. His 6-6, 215-pound frame should fill out with muscle under the direction of NU strength coach Boyd Epley. Tackle Jeff Merrill is 6-5, 245, and has been timed in :04.8 in the 40-yard dash. He
(continued)



Roger Craig gained 353 yards and scored all 28 of his team's points in the Iowa State playoffs last season.



Todd Spratte (6-4, 230), was pegged as one of the outstanding football players in Minnesota this year. He will probably play either defensive end or tight end.



Doug Dhein is the tallest player recruited this year. Standing 6-6 he played both offensive and defensive tackle in high school. No matter what side of the line he is on, his stature will prove valuable for the Huskers.

comes from Huntsville, Ala., but escaped Bear Bryant and the Crimson Tide. "Andra Franklin (also from Alabama) and I.M. Hipp showed me around," Merrill said. "They impressed me. So did Coach Osborne when he came down here to visit. He doesn't say much, but you know he's sincere about what he says. Besides, I think I like the sound of Cornhuskers more than I like the sound of Crimson Tide."

Scott Raridon played tackle for Mason City, Iowa, the state's Class AAAA champion, coached by former Cornhusker linebacker Barry Alvarez. "We've had four tackles in two years now get major college scholarships, and Scott's the best of the four," Alvarez said of the 6-4, 265-pound Raridon. "He's nasty and quick. He can do a lot of things. If he wasn't the top lineman in the state this year, he was one of the top two college prospects." Raridon and Craig, whose brother Curtis started three years at Nebraska as a wingback, were considered among the top college prospects in Iowa.

Todd Spratte earned the distinction as the best high school football player in Minnesota — "at least according to the reports we got," Osborne said — and after narrowing his choices to Michigan State and Nebraska, he chose the Cornhuskers. At 6-4 and 230, he'll likely play either tight

end or defensive end, but at John Marshall High School in Rochester, he also played in the offensive backfield, gaining 700 yards on the ground and catching 17 passes for 300 more on a team which finished 10-1 and made the state playoffs.

Kevin Seibel and Herrmann are the best South Dakota has to offer. Recent Cornhusker stars John Dutton and Larry Jacobson, a former Outland Trophy winner, both came to Nebraska from the Black Hills state. Seibel is a linebacker and kicker, who established a state prep record with a 53-yard field goal during his junior season in Vermillion.

Robert Alven (6-0, 240) and Dean Steinkuhler (6-3, 225) offer a contrast in backgrounds, but both are considered solid guard or offensive line candidates. Alven is the third new Cornhusker to come from Texas; he played in Dallas. Unlike the other, more towering linemen Osborne will bring in, Alven packs his 240 pounds on a 6-0 frame. That may seem short for an offensive lineman, but "he's a super football player," Osborne said. Steinkuhler is impressive enough that Nebraska was interested in him even though he played eight-man football his senior season at Sterling (Ne.) High School and didn't even make his own all-conference team. "What they did was,

they chose eight offensive players, and I played fullback. My job was mostly blocking, and I'm sure there were probably guys who had better rushing statistics," Steinkuhler said. "I like to block." The Cornhuskers will be glad to let him have the chance.

Steinkuhler is one of seven preps to come to Nebraska from the home state this year. Schmeucker, Keeler, Sherlock, Holman, Jeffries, and Johnson are the others. That's a small number compared with previous seasons, perhaps the smallest ever. But Osborne says that's a result of the fact that the Cornhuskers are being more selective now. They withheld three scholarships which might have gone to marginal players in the past, and three other scholarships were "borrowed ahead" for current Huskers Isaiah Hipp, Kelly Saalfeld, and Jeff Bloom. They came to the program originally as walk-ons.

Osborne says he would have liked to recruit more in-state athletes. "It concerns us, but you've got to figure the four or five walk-ons we add will probably all be Nebraska players. There are two or three players around the state we have a high degree of interest in if we lose somebody," he said. "Rather than pick the least marginal players and give them scholarships,

1979 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL RECRUITS

Name	Pos.	Hometown	Ht.	Wt.
Robert Alven	OG	Dallas, TX	6-0	240
Jimmy Austin	RB	Miami, FL	6-1	213
Jim Corbeil	DB	Oak Park, IL	6-2	195
Roger Craig	RB	Davenport, IA	6-3	200
Doug Dhein	OT/DT	Wisconsin Rapids, WI	6-6	215
Doug Herrmann	FB/LB	Custer, SD	6-4	225
Craig Holman	FB/DE	Omaha, NE	6-4	210
Jim Jeffries	DB	Grand Island, NE	6-1	185
Randee Johnson	QB	Lincoln, NE	6-2	180
Mike Keeler	T	Omaha, NE	6-4	240
Nate Mason	QB	Greenville, TX	6-2	178
Jeff Merrill	T	Huntsville, AL	6-5	245
Keith Owen	DB	Neosho, MO	6-0	185
Scott Raridon	T	Mason City, IA	6-4	265
Dennis Rogan	RB	Colorado Springs, CO	6-0	175
Dan Schmeucker	T	Omaha, NE	6-5	250
Kevin Seibel	LB	Vermillion, SD	6-1	230
John Sherlock	T	Omaha, NE	6-2	235
Ricky Simmons	WB	Greenville, TX	5-11	160
Todd Spratte	TE/DE	Rochester, MN	6-4	230
Dean Steinkuhler	T	Burr, NE	6-3	225
Mark Tuck	T	Matthews, NC	6-4	240
Henry Waechter	T	Epworth, IA	6-6	250
Doug Wilkening	RB	Littleton, CO	6-2	213

we'll have 12 to 15 walk-ons competing for grants, so we're still banking heavily on walk-ons."

Cornhusker recruiting didn't end when the 24 athletes mentioned here were finally signed to a national letter of intent, February 21. As in the past, Nebraska is counting on quality walk-ons to supplement the influx of scholarship players. Osborne doesn't plan to shut off that pipeline of football talent even though he would like to close it just a little.

"We want the ones who have a chance to make it. We'll be more restrictive that way," he said. "In the past, we've let anybody who wants to, try out. But now they'll have to pass minimal standards of height, weight and speed or have a coach's recommendation because we've taken such a

beating in recruiting about the vast number of walk-ons we have."

Other colleges use that well-known fact to persuade recruits that their chances of earning a scholarship at Nebraska are minimal against such odds. "The kids aren't competing with 70 other walk-ons, really," Osborne said. "They're just competing with the top 15 or 20. The odds are more like a third of making it, but that's hard to convey when people (other recruiters) talk numbers."

Even so, Nebraska is saving some scholarships for those young men who might someday blossom the way college football's most famous walk-on, Isaiah Hipp, did two seasons ago. He came from Chapin, S.C., to gain over 2,000 yards in two seasons as an I-back. This fall he'll

likely become Nebraska's all-time leading career rusher. "Most programs save one or two scholarships for walk-ons, but we're going to save five to seven a year," Osborne said.

The right ones this fall would make this already talented class of recruits, one of the best to enroll at Nebraska in a long time. "It all depends on whether we fill in with the walk-ons. If we can supplement this group with 15 to 20 walk-ons, we won't lose much from the days when we had 45 grants," Osborne said. "My feeling is, that this is the best group since we've been recruiting 30 players, but we won't know for sure until they play."

Losing DeWaine "Redd" Wright was already a long way from Osborne's mind. It was an excellent recruiting year without him. ★

Mark Ahmann Sports



Take a good look!

Monday - Friday

6 & 10 pm



1979 SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES

TRACK

MEN

March 31 Northeast Louisiana Invitational at Monroe, LA
 April 7 Arizona State at Tempe, AZ
 April 14 Iowa State at Ames, IA
 April 21 El Paso Invitational at El Paso, TX
 April 27-28 Drake Relays at Des Moines, IA
 May 5 Missouri at Columbia, MO
 May 18-19 Big 8 Outdoor at Lincoln
 May 31-June 2 NCAA Outdoor at Champaign, IL

WOMEN

March 31 Arkansas Relays at Fayetteville, AK
 April 7 Husker Invitational at Mankato State, Ft. Hays, Wyoming, Missouri, Minnesota, UNO
 April 14 at Illinois Invitational
 April 21 at Northern Colorado Invitational
 April 24 State meet at Wayne State
 April 27-28 at Drake Relays
 May 4-5 Big Eight Championships at Manhattan, KS
 May 23-26 AIAW Nationals at Michigan State University

Home meets at Ed Weir Track.

BASEBALL

March 25-31 at Rainbow Easter Tournament-Honolulu

March 25 Cal Poly-Pomona
 March 25 Hawaii
 March 26 Hawaii-Hilo
 March 27 TBA
 March 28 Hawaii-Hilo
 March 29 TBA
 March 29 Hawaii
 March 30 Cal Poly-Pomona
 April 3 Creighton* (2:00)
 April 4 Creighton* (2:00)
 April 7 at Colorado*
 April 9 at Kansas State*
 April 11 at Nebraska-Omaha*
 April 12 Fort Hayes State* (2:00)
 April 14 Oklahoma State* (1:00)
 April 16 Oklahoma* (1:30)
 April 18 Augustana* (2:00)
 April 20 Iowa State* (1:30)
 April 21 Iowa State* (1:00)
 April 23 Dana* (2:00)
 April 24 Morningside* (2:00)
 April 27 at Missouri*
 April 28 at Missouri*
 May 1 Nebraska-Omaha* (2:00)
 May 4 at Kansas*
 May 5 at Kansas*
 May 16-19 at Big Eight Playoffs-Oklahoma City
 May 25-26 at NCAA Regional Playoffs
 June 1-8 College World Series-Omaha

All Home Games At Beltzer Field
 (North of Memorial Stadium)

*Two 7-inning Games

TENNIS

MEN

March 27 Harvard at Lincoln
 March 28 Santa Barbara at Santa Barbara
 March 29 Cal. St. at Bakersfield
 March 30 L.A. Pierce at Woodland Hills
 April 5 Air Force at Air Force Academy
 April 6 Colorado at Boulder
 April 7 Oklahoma State at Lincoln
 April 14 Missouri, Baker at Columbia
 April 21 Washburn, McPherson at Topeka
 April 24 Bethany at Lincoln
 April 26-27 Drake Invitational at Des Moines
 May 3 Kansas State at Manhattan
 May 16-18 Big Eight Championships at Oklahoma City

WOMEN

March 26 at Oklahoma State
 March 27 Oral Roberts and Oklahoma at Norman, OK
 April 1 Texas Invitational at Austin, TX
 April 6-7 Missouri, Iowa State, Drake, 6 p.m.
 April 10 Northwest Missouri State, 6 p.m.
 April 13-14 Big Eight Tournament at Lawrence, KS
 April 17 at Drake
 April 19 at UNO
 April 26-28 Missouri Valley Championships at Columbia, MO
 May 4-5 Minnesota Invitational at Minneapolis, MN
 May 18-19 Region 6 Championships at Columbia, MO
 Home matches at Bob Devaney Sports Complex

GOLF

MEN

March 23-25 Morris Williams at Austin
 April 4-7 All American at Houston
 April 19-20 Wheatshocker Invite at Wichita
 April 25-27 Drake Relays at Des Moines
 May 3-4 Big Eight Championships at Lawrence
 May 22-26 NCAA Meet at Wake Forest

WOMEN

April 13-14 Illinois Invitational at Champaign, IL
 April 22-23 Big Eight Tournament at Stillwater, OK
 May 5-6 Minnesota Invitational at Minneapolis, MN

SOFTBALL

March 25 Central Arizona College at Coolidge, AZ
 March 26 Phoenix College at Phoenix, AZ
 March 27 Arizona State and Copper State at Phoenix, AZ
 March 28 Yavapai College at Prescott, AZ
 March 28 Copper State at Phoenix, AZ
 March 29-31 Arizona Tournament at Tucson, AZ
 March 31 Glendale College at Phoenix, AZ
 April 3 UNO, 5 p.m.
 April 4 Creighton, 5 p.m.
 April 5 Mankato State, 5 p.m. (S)
 April 6-8 Husker Invitational
 April 9 at Northwest Missouri
 April 10 at Wayne State
 April 12 at Drake

April 13-14 Big Eight Tournament at Ft. Dodge, IA
 April 16 Northwest Missouri, 5:30 p.m.
 April 18 Wayne State, 5:30 p.m.
 April 19 at Kansas
 April 20 at Emporia State
 April 21 Kansas State Tournament at Manhattan, KS
 April 23 Kansas State, 2 p.m.
 April 24 at UNO
 April 25 at Creighton
 April 27-28 State Tournament
 May 8 Drake, 5:30 p.m.
 May 10-13 Region 6 Tourney at Lawrence, KS
 May 24-27 Women's College World Series at UNO

Home games at Ballard Field, 66th and Kearney

MEN'S SCORECARD

by Ryly Jane Hambleton

WRESTLING—The Nebraska wrestlers ended their dual season with an 8-11 mark. The Huskers went 1-3 in February, winning a dual over Central Missouri 33-6, but falling to Missouri (44-0), Wyoming (25-26) and NCAA Division II powerhouse UNO (26-12).

Two Husker matmen qualified for the NCAA meet March 8-10 at Ames, IA. Rich Whitehead has a 10-6-2 dual record in the 126-pound class while Steve Peck is 3-2 in the 150-pound division. Both wrestlers are freshmen in the young and rebuilding NU wrestling program.

GYMNASTICS—The Huskers completed a successful homestand with four dual meet victories in February, concluding the dual meet season with a season and school record. Following the vaunted Oklahoma, Iowa State and Nebraska triangular, NU hosted Kansas, Oklahoma, Southern Illinois and Louisiana State in four dual meets.

NU dispatched Kansas 221.40-199.15, once again defeated Oklahoma, 222.05-217.70, downed Southern Illinois 217.70-213.40 and then ended the season with the record performance of 222.80-211.75 over LSU.

Jim Hartung, Larry Gerard and Chuck Chmelka all had their best scores of the year in the all-around against LSU. Hartung won the event with a 57.45, while Gerard improved his mark to 56.85 and Chmelka upped his standard to 53.45.

The Huskers prepared for the Big Eight

Championships March 8-9 in Norman, OK. They placed second to Oklahoma, losing 443.20-439.85. After that meet, NU traveled to Fort Collins, Colo., for the NCAA Midwest Regional March 23-24. The NCAA championships are slated for April 3-5 in Baton Rouge, LA.

TENNIS—The Nebraska men's tennis team opened its season with two wins and a loss in the Nebraska Invitational Round Robin Tournament.

Coach Jim Porter's netters defeated Doane 9-0 and Southern Illinois 8-1, but fell to Kansas 6-3. Kerry McDermott, a junior from Grand Island, is the only Husker with a perfect 3-0 record. Dan Sloboth, the number one singles player from Omaha, is 2-1, dropping only his match to Kansas.



Steve Elliott won the three-meter diving in the Big Eight meet. He also competes with the gymnastics team.

SWIMMING—Cal Bentz' swimmers dropped a close decision to Missouri (64-49) before hitting the road one last time before the Big Eight meet. The Huskers defeated Oklahoma, 65-48, but fell to Drury College (60-53) and Kansas (85-28). The NU team hosted the Big Eight meet and helped themselves to the best Husker finish in seven years. For that period of time, Nebraska has occupied last place in the Big Eight, but this year, NU jumped to fourth place, just 9½ points out of the third spot. The Huskers boast three individual Big Eight champions. Rick Rhodes won the 100-yard breaststroke, Steve Elliott took the three-meter diving title and Will Douglas won the 200-yard backstroke. Rhodes and Elliott are freshmen while Douglas is a sophomore transfer student. Kansas won the title again this year, followed by Iowa State, Missouri and then Nebraska.

TRACK—The Huskers warmed up for the Big Eight meet with a win in a triangular in Lincoln. The Nebraska (80) team defeated Wichita State (43) and Colorado State (39) in the Bob Devaney Sports Center before traveling to Oklahoma City for the conference indoor meet at The Myriad.

Nebraska came away from the indoor meet in third place, following Missouri and Kansas. The Huskers had three champions, including Ray Mahoney in the 440 (:48.79), Mark Fluitt in the 1,000 (2:10.37) and Scott Poehling in the 880 (1:52.57). Fluitt was also second in the mile in 4:06.38 and Poehling took third in the 600 (1:10.69). Doug Phelps was second in the high jump (7-1) and Randy Raymond took the silver in the pole vault (16-6). The mile relay team, which consists of Mahoney, Pat McKenzie, Randy Brooks and Everton DaCosta, was second with a time of 3:15.02.

RESULTS FROM NCAA INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Two-mile relay — 1. Nebraska (Paul Downes, Brian Dunigan, Mark Fluitt, Scott Poehling), 7:31.3. Western Michigan, 7:31.9. 3. Harvard, 7:32.0. 4. Georgetown, 7:34.9. 5. Adelphi, 7:35.0. 6. Notre Dame, 7:59.2.

Mile Relay — 1. Villanova, 3:15.52. 2. Kansas, 3:16.07. 3. Southern, 3:16.09. 4. Maryland, 3:20.19. 5. Nebraska, 3:25.12.

Nebraska 12 points; tied for 9th place. ★



Jim Hartung will lead the Huskers in their attempt to capture the NCAA Championships in gymnastics.



Ray Mahoney was one of three NU champions in the Husker Invitational this year. He should score well for the Huskers in the outdoor schedule this season.

WOMEN'S SCORECARD

by Ryly Jane Hambleton

BASKETBALL—The Lady Husker basketball team capped its regular season with a playoff win over state rival UNO to gain a berth in the AIAW Region 6 Basketball Tournament March 8-10 at the University of Minnesota. The game was needed when UNO won the second regularly scheduled game in Lincoln, 50-48, thus making the playoff game a necessity. The Lady Huskers had won the first meeting in Omaha, 59-49, but fell behind from the outset of the second tilt. Diane DeVigna tied the score at 48-all with :47 seconds left. UNO center Barb Hart hit a jumper from six feet with :16 remaining but the Huskers couldn't hit on the last two attempts.

In the deciding game, Nebraska pulled away from a 19-all tie at 7:08 of the first half and outscored the Lady Mavericks 22-4 to hold a 41-23 halftime edge. UNO pulled back within nine at 64-55 with 2:35 left, but NU zipped past UNO 8-2 in the next minute to preserve a 73-59 win. Ruth James led the Huskers with 21 points, while Carol Garey added 16 and grabbed 15 rebounds.

The Lady Huskers built a 23-12 record this year. NU hosted defending AIAW national champion UCLA and pulled within four of the Bruins near the end of the game but UCLA hit free throws as NU fouled to try to regain possession of the ball. Diane DeVigna led all scorers with 26 points but the Huskers fell, 72-63.

Five Huskers in double figures paced NU to a 69-57 win over Northwest Missouri State. Ami Beiriger had 12 while DeVigna added 15, Grainne Murray had 13, Mathaline Otis chipped in 10 and Janet Smith added 12. NU topped Big Eight foe Missouri, 68-61, after making up a 10-point first-half deficit. Following that, Kansas swept into town and took a 63-59 decision. After the loss to UNO, Nebraska shellacked South Dakota 78-56. The Huskers took out their frustrations from the UNO game on South Dakota, jumping to a 10-0 lead and expanding that to a 27-point lead at 60-33.

Nebraska met Kansas in the first round of the Region 6 tourney. The tough Jayhawks beat the Husker women, however, 86-56 and thus ended their season.

TRACK—The Nebraska women's track team won 11 of 13 events in the Cornhusker Invitational, but following that showing, injuries decimated the team.

Individual winners in the Cornhusker meet included Cindy Dixon (mile), Sharon

Burrill (high jump and long jump), Cindy Tatum (60- and 300-yard dashes), Julie Seaton (440), Cheryl Zajic (60-yard hurdles), Lisa Kramer (1,000), Karen Frazee (pentathlon) and the mile and distance medley relay teams.

Burrill established a school record of 5-9 in the high jump in the home meet and the following week, upped it to 5-10 in the Cornhusker Invite. The next week at Wisconsin, Burrill became the third woman in the country to jump 6-0 this year. A second place in the Big Eight at 5-11 put Burrill behind Annette Tannander of Colorado, who also cleared 5-11 but in fewer tries.

Nebraska, which finished third in the Big Eight indoor meet last year, had hopes for an improvement this year when injuries left Coach Carol Frost with a skeleton crew. Carol Schenk, who had finished 30th in the national cross-country meet last fall, was out with a leg injury. Donna Fox, winner of the 1,000-yard run in the national invitational last year, was still recovering from injuries suffered in an automobile accident. Cindy Dixon was derailed by a case of bronchitis. Julie Seaton underwent emergency appendectomy surgery the Thursday before the meet and sprinter Cindy Tatum broke her foot during the 440. Tatum was running a strong second when she broke stride at the 300-yard mark, but finished the race in fourth place, ahead of Debbie Esser, the college and AAU 400-meter hurdle champion last year. Nebraska finished fourth in the meet, behind three-time champion Iowa State, Missouri and Colorado. Other Huskers to fare well in the meet included Cheryl Zajic, who gained second in the 60-yard hurdles (:08.14) behind Missouri's Pam Page. Sondra Obermeier was second in the pentathlon behind Donna Lane of ISU.

Following a 72-15 win over UNO, the Nebraska team, diminished in size, traveled to Missouri for the National Invitational Track Meet. Once again, Burrill upped the school record to 6-1, as she claimed the high jump title. Burrill, a freshman from Denver, Colorado, has cleared 6-3 outdoors, so has more room to improve.

GYMNASTICS—The Nebraska women had four extremely important meets during February. Three were home meets, double duals in conjunction with men's meets and the other was the Big Eight meet in Colorado. Nebraska was the defending champion of the Big Eight championships, held in Lincoln last year. (See related article on page 24.)

The NU gymnasts warmed up for the conference meet with a 135.05-123.20 win over Kansas. The Husker men and women drew more than 1,800 fans for the meet. Peg Liddick, Patty Carmichael and Rene Reisdorff finished first, second and third, respectively, in the all-around competition.

Nebraska successfully defended its conference title in Colorado. The Huskers scored 132.50 compared to second-place Colorado's 131.05. CU's Debbie Wilcox, a 1976 Olympic competitor for the U.S., won the all-around title followed by NU's Rene Reisdorff. Reisdorff tied for the gold in the balance beam with Jackie DePinto of Kansas, while Patty Carmichael claimed the gold for NU in the floor exercise. Carmichael was also second in the vault. Wilcox won the vault and Kim Opler of CU won the uneven bars. Last year, Wilcox won all but the vaulting title, which went to Liddick. Liddick qualified for the finals of the vault this year, but was unable to defend her title.

Following the Big Eight meet, NU returned home for two more double duals. The Huskers dispatched Colorado 136.4-129.85 to set an all-time school record. Liddick won the all-around with a 34.95, a season best for the team.

For the second time this year, the women's team accomplished one of the more improbable feats in the world of gymnastics—a tie. NU and LSU battled to a 132.25-all tie in another meet with the Husker men. Carmichael won the all-around and the floor exercise but without Reisdorff, who was out with a back injury, the Huskers didn't have the depth to take the meet.

Coach Judy Schalk will take her gymnasts to the regional meet March 16-17 at Iowa State. Schalk and the team have a week off to prepare for the meet.

SWIMMING—Following a key upset of the Kansas team, coach Ray Huppert's swimmers took on Missouri. A bit of a let-down allowed the Tigers to slip past NU, 66-65. Nebraska then journeyed to Oklahoma for the Big Eight championships. NU was third in the meet last year, and finished in the third spot again this year.

The 800-yard freestyle relay team, consisting of Anne Watland, Cary Backhaus, Marian Maack and Marla Thompson, brought home the only NU gold. Watland placed second in the 500 and 1,650 freestyle, while JoDea Eckstrom was second in the 100 and 200 backstroke and the 100 individual medley. ★

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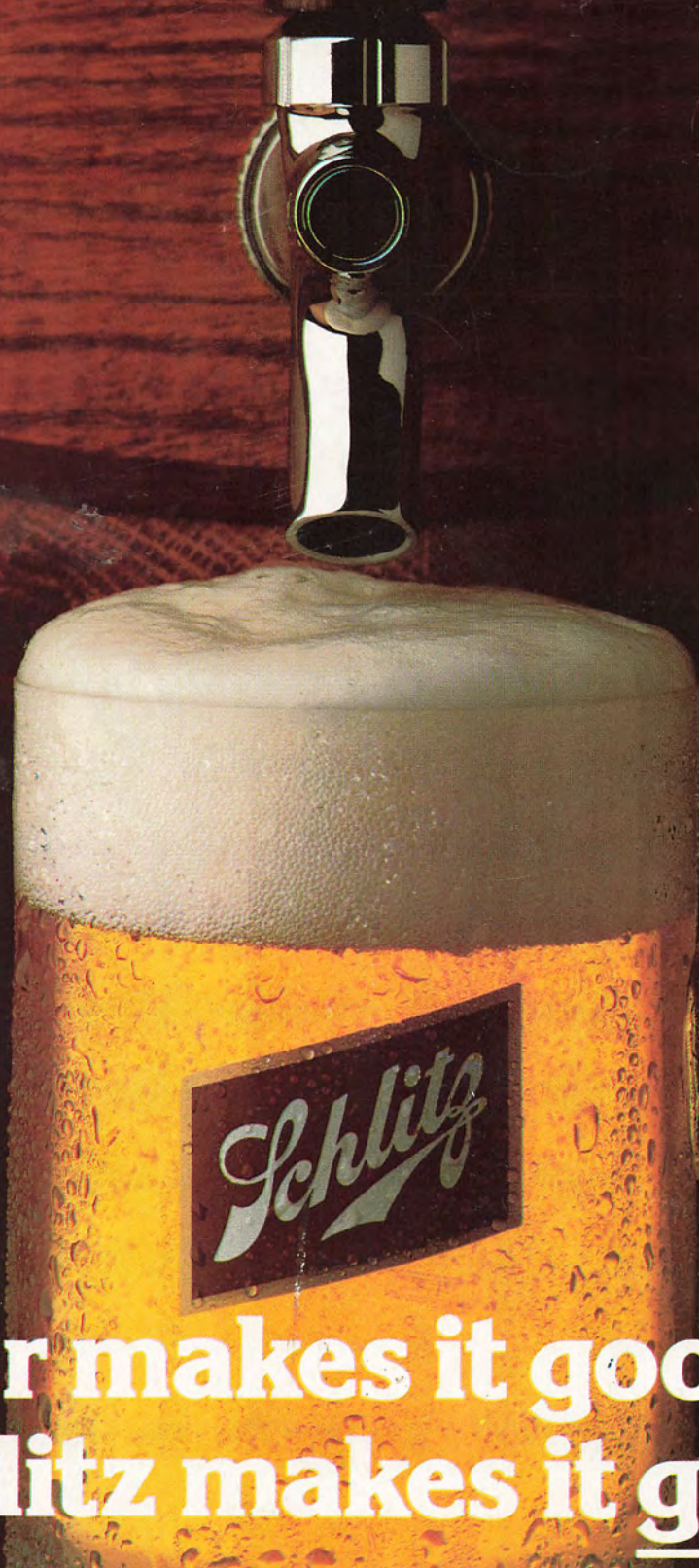
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